

#### DANIEL SHUE

PROSECUTING ATTORNEY TWELFTH JUDICIAL DISTRICT

SEBASTIAN COUNTY COURTS BUILDING 901 SOUTH B STREET, SUITE 209 FORT SMITH, ARKANSAS 72901

GENERAL OFFICE (Hot Checks)

September 20, 2016

Cpl. Patrick A. Schmidt Special Agent, Company D Criminal Investigation Division Arkansas State Police P.O. Box 4109 Fort Smith, AR 72914

Re: Sgt. Sylvester Bruce Cline Death Investigation

Dear Cpl. Schmidt:

The Office of the Prosecuting Attorney has completed its review of the investigative report surrounding the death of Sgt. Sylvester Bruce Cline. Cline was a service member of the 39<sup>th</sup> Brigade Support Battalion of the Arkansas Army National Guard participating in training at Fort Chaffee Joint Operations Maneuver Training Center (FCJMTC) on June 14, 2016. I have personally reviewed the entire Arkansas State Police investigative file, which includes interviews with numerous witnesses, medical records, scene diagram and photographs, and the autopsy, before making this decision. It is the opinion of this office that no criminal charges can be filed against any person with regard to this unfortunate death.

From the facts and circumstances we have learned, at approximately 5:30 a.m., Sgt. Cline traveled with the other members of his unit to Range 100, where they ate breakfast and, after conducting a safety briefing, commenced their training. At around 8:00 a.m. or 9:00 a.m., the 400 gallon water buffalo (portable drinking water carrier) was brought up to the firing line to help with hydration. According to Second Lieutenant Daniel J. Baum, there were breaks built into the training, two ambulances were on the scene, six medics and two ice dumps were brought in during the training that day. Sgt. Calvin Neal together with Sgt. Cline were manning a 50 caliber machine gun on a tripod to the left of the firing position. Their position offered them no cover available from the sun and Sgt. Cline had forgotten his personal hydration system in one of the transport trucks. They shared Sgt. Neal's hydration pack and then later Sgt. Cline retrieved his hydration pack from the truck. Sgt. Neal observed Sgt. Cline to be sweating a lot, as was everyone; he also noted that Sgt. Cline was hydrating throughout this time. Sometime after lunch, Sgt. Cline began to have cramps in his legs and took a couple of breaks in a nearby shaded area. It should be noted that there were five heat casualties that day. At approximately 4:15

Cpl. Patrick A. Schmidt, Special Agent

Re: Sgt. Sylvester Bruce Cline Death Investigation

September 20, 2016

Page 2

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p.m., Sgt. Cline walked to the ambulance and while within the ambulance, Sgt. Cline's condition began to worsen. His mental status began to falter. They arrived at the Troop Medical Clinic at 5:15 p.m. and Sgt. Cline was still able to talk, but he could no longer walk. At 5:40 p.m., medics began Cardiopulmonary Resuscitation (CPR) and Sgt. Cline was medically evacuated via helicopter to Mercy Hospital in Fort Smith. He arrived at approximately 6:00 p.m. and though CPR efforts continued, he was pronounced dead at 6:17 p.m. An autopsy was performed on June 16, 2016 by Dr. Frank Peretti, M.D. of the Arkansas State Crime Laboratory-Medical Examiner Division, which concluded that the cause of death was environmental hyperthermia and the manner of death was accident. Significantly, the Medical Examiner found that "the described events and symptoms were consistent with hyperthermia. All other possible causes of death were excluded by gross and microscopic examination of the organs, and toxicology and laboratory testing. Due to the circumstances that occurred prior to death, the manner of death was classified as accident."

Considering the totality of the circumstances and the applicable law, no criminal offense has been committed. There is no evidence to suggest any criminal responsibility for the tragic death of Sgt. Sylvester Bruce Cline.

SINCERELY,

DANIEL SHUE

PROSECUTING ATTORNEY

DS:js

## INVESTIGATIVE REPORT ASP-2016-0112

Report Date: 06/17/2016

**Primary Information** 

Description:

Special Agent Notes

Occurrence From:

06/14/2016 00:00

Occurrence To:

06/14/2016 00:00

Dissemination Code:

SYSTEM WIDE ACCESS

Reporting LEO:

Schmidt, Patrick (COMPANY D / Arkansas State Police)

Approval Status:

Approved

Approved Date:

08/31/2016

Approved By:

Richmond, Kevin (COMPANY D / Arkansas State Police)

Subject #1 - VICTIM #1 - Cline, Sylvester Bruce

Primary Information

Subject Name:

Cline, Sylvester Bruce

Record Type:

**PERSON** 

Bio:

32 yr. old, BLACK, MALE

Birth Date:

NO

Juvenile:

Place Of Birth State:

**ARKANSAS** 

Relationship Information

Related Offense:

VICTIM of

Personal Information

Ethnicity:

**AMERICAN** 

Height:

600

Weight:

190

Eye Color:

BROWN

Hair Color:

BLACK

Hair Length:

SHORT

Complexion: Physical Build: DARK/TAN MEDIUM

US Citizen:

YES

Photo:

YES

Deceased:

YES

Date Deceased:

06/14/2016 00:00

Addresses

Relationship

**HOME ADDRESS** 

08/31/2016 13:29:50

Address

UNITED STATES

Identifications

ID Type FBI ID Number

State

Country UNITED STATES

As Of Date

Fictitious NO Comment

Page 1 of 4

## INVESTIGATIVE REPORT ASP-2016-0112

Report Date: 06/17/2016

	VICTIM #1 - Cline,	Sylvester Bruce -	Continued			
Identification	s - Continued					
ID Type	Number	<u>State</u>	Country	As Of Date	<u>Fictitious</u>	<u>Comment</u>
SOCIAL SECURITY	Consider	***	UNITED STATES		NO	
DRIVER LICE	NSE	ARKANSAS	UNITED STATES	10/11/2013	NO	ac +
STATE	ION	ARKANSAS	UNITED STATES		NO	

Record Status Information

Record Origination Operator: Schmidt, Patrick (COMPANY D / Arkansas State Police)

Record Origination Date: 06/17/2016 09:57

Last Update Operator: Richmond, Kevin (COMPANY D / Arkansas State Police)

Last Update Date: 08/31/2016 13:28

		Supervisor	Date
Schmidt, Patrick (COMPANY D / Arkansas State Police)	8/31/2016	Richmond, Kevin (COMPANY D / Arkansas State Police)	8/31/2016

darrative begins on the following page.

08/31/2016 13:29:50 Page 2 of 4

#### ASP-2016-0112 ARKANSAS STATE POLICE

(Special Agent Notes)

On June 16<sup>th</sup> 2016 at 9:19 am, I was contacted by Sergeant Kevin Richmond to respond to Fort Chaffee Joint Operations Maneuver Training Center (FCJMTC) in reference to a Death Investigation involving a service member of the 39<sup>th</sup> Brigade Support Battalion of the Arkansas Army National Guard. The incident occurred on June 14<sup>th</sup> 2016 during the units Annual Training (AT) while conducting a static firing exercise. Sergeant Sylvester B. Cline suffered what appeared to be a heat related issue during an all day training evolution. Cline was initially treated for heat related issues earlier in the day but returned to the training exercise. After experiencing heat related cramps, Cline walked to the FLA (Ambulance) and sought treatment. On site medical staff began initiating treatment and transported Cline via FLA to the Troop Medical Center (TMC) where his condition severely deteriorated. Cline was unresponsive while medical personnel began to administer CPR. Cline was then transported by Air to Mercy Medical Center where he was pronounced dead by Emergency Room Dr. Richard Nelson. For a detailed timeline and witness statements please reference the attached interview of witnesses and other supporting documentation.

6-16-16 at 10:25 am, I contacted Investigator John Fallis with the Arkansas State Crime Laboratory Medical Examiner's Office in reference to the autopsy conducted on Cline. Fallis relayed that the preliminary report should be completed soon. His initial findings were that Cline died from Heat Stroke. They are also awaiting a secondary blood test to check Cline for Sickle Cell Disease. I asked Fallis to add me as the lead investigator in the case and that all correspondence concerning the case be relayed to me.

6-16-16 at 10:44 am, I contacted the Sebastian County Coroner and left a message to contact me regarding the case.

6-16-16 at approximately 11:10 am, I arrived at FCJMTC with Special Agents (SA) Sam Bass and Robin Kuykendall. Together we responded to Building 1682.

6-16-16 at 11:15 am I along with SA's Bass and Kuykendall met with LT. Colonel Spafford and Captain Achorn in Building 1682. They relayed the events that unfolded on June 14<sup>th</sup> concerning Cline. Colonel Spafford and Captain Achorn relayed to me that they or other command staff members would provide me with complete copies of Cline's Medical Records, Medical Care, Health Assessments, Range Control Documents, Risk Assessments, Training Timeline's. all documents provided by AANG are attached to this report.

6-16-16 from 11:30 am to 3:15 pm, I along with SA Kuykendall in Building 1615 conducted numerous interviews with people present with Cline that day. SA Bass responded to and processed Range 100. For a detailed account of the interviews and crime scene please see specific reports attached to this report.

6-16-16 at 3:20 pm I was driven by Sgt. Major Franks out to Range 100 where the training had occurred on June 14<sup>th</sup>. I observed the scene and Franks relayed to me the layout concerning medical equipment and supplies. We retraced and timed the route taken by the FLA to the TMC. This information can be viewed elsewhere in the report.

6-16-16 at 4:20 pm I contacted Sebastian County Coroner Terry Campbell. Campbell advised that his office made the decision to have an Autopsy performed. I asked him to furnish me the Crime Lab Body Submission Form along with any other medical information he had obtained concerning Cline.

6-17-16 at 11:14 am I contacted Investigator Fallis with the Medical Examiner's (ME) Office. He explained that a person suffering from Sickle Cell would intensify and accelerate the effects of heat stroke. He explained that the Preliminary Autopsy was pending.

6-21-16 at 3:10 pm I contacted Investigator Fallis with the ME's office. Fallis explained that the Preliminary Autopsy was still pending the results of the Sickle Cell test.

7-1-16 at 2:04 pm I contacted Investigator Fallis with the ME's office. Fallis explained that the Preliminary Autopsy was still pending the results of the Sickle Cell test.

7-1-16 at 3:00 pm I contacted Coroner Terry Campbell's office. A short time later Campbell returned my call and he stated he would check and see what paperwork was returned to him from the crime lab regarding a the autopsy.

7-11-16 at 9:13 am I received a ASCL preliminary autopsy report from Sebastian County Coroner Terry Campbell. The preliminary report still lists Cline's cause of death as, "Pending" do to the further blood tests.

**END** 

# Arkansas State Police INVESTIGATIVE SUPPLEMENT ASP-2016-0112/8

Report Date: 06/17/2016

**Primary Information** 

Description:

Special Agent Notes-Kuykendall

Occurrence From:

06/16/2016 00:00

Occurrence To:

06/16/2016 00:00

Dissemination Code:

SYSTEM WIDE ACCESS

Reporting LEO:

Kuykendall, Robin (COMPANY D / Arkansas State Police)

Approval Status:

Approved

Approved Date:

06/22/2016

Approved By:

Richmond, Kevin (COMPANY D / Arkansas State Police)

**Record Status Information** 

Record Origination Operator:

Kuykendall, Robin (COMPANY D / Arkansas State Police)

Record Origination Date:

06/20/2016 15:44

Last Update Operator:

Richmond, Kevin (COMPANY D / Arkansas State Police)

Last Update Date:

06/22/2016 13:55

Reporting LEO	Date	Supervisor	Date
Kuykendall, Robin (COMPANY D / Arkansas State Police)	1 <i>8/31/</i> 20116	Richmond, Kevin (COMPANY D / Arkansas State Police)	8/31/2016

Narrative begins on the following page.		

08/31/2016 13:30:03 Page 1 of 2

## ASP-2016-0112/8 ARKANSAS STATE POLICE (Special Agent Notes)

On Thursday, June 16, 2016, I was contacted by Arkansas State Police (ASP), Criminal Investigation Division (CID), Sergeant Kevin Richmond. Richmond instructed me to go to Fort Chaffee Joint Maneuver Training Center (FCJMTC), to assist ASP CID Special Agent Patrick Schmidt with a death investigation. Richmond said the Arkansas Army National Guard (AANG) had requested assistance with a death investigation due to a heat related illness.

I met with Schmidt and ASP CID Special Agent Sam Bass at Building #1682 at the FCJMTC. We met with Captain Brian Achorn and were briefed on the procedures that would be followed by the National Guard. We then met with Lt. Colonel Todd Spafford and were briefed on what had taken place and who were involved.

Spafford said that units of the 39<sup>th</sup> Infantry Brigade, Infantry Combat Brigade Team (ICBT) were conducting a static live fire basic defense exercise. Spafford said they arrived at the range and setup their weapons and began to go through rehearsal of the exercise by going through a walk through, dry fire phase, blank fire phase, and then a live fire phase. Spafford said they began to experience several heat casualties. The casualties were treated by medics on scene and the more serious were evacuated to a medical unit on post and then to Mercy Hospital if needed. Spafford said Specialist Sylvester Cline was evac by military medics in a field litter ambulance (FLA) to the troop medical center (TMC) on post. Spafford said Cline was then air evac to Mercy Hospital in Fort Smith. Spafford provided a list of personnel that were present during the exercise.

Bass went to the firing range, where the exercise took place and began a crime scene search of that location. Schmidt and I went along with Achorn to Building #1615 and identified those personnel that needed to be interviewed concerning this investigation.

I began to conduct interviews of eight personnel that I identified as having direct contact with or were in close proximity to Cline, during the exercise.

I interviewed, Sgt. James Barlow, Sgt. David Asbury, Sgt. Terrance Anderson, Spc. Juan Bautista, SSG Tray Davis, Sgt. Jacob Michaels, SSG Samuel Kell and CSM Charles Franks. These interviews are included within this case file.

**END** 

## INVESTIGATIVE SUPPLEMENT ASP-2016-0112/17

Report Date: 06/22/2016

**Primary Information** 

Description:

**Special Agent Notes** 

Dissemination Code:

SYSTEM WIDE ACCESS

Reporting LEO:

Mendenhall, Corey (COMPANY D / Arkansas State Police)

Approval Status:

Approved

Approved Date:

06/22/2016

Approved By:

Richmond, Kevin (COMPANY D / Arkansas State Police)

Record Status Information

Record Origination Operator:

Mendenhall, Corey (COMPANY D / Arkansas State Police)

Record Origination Date:

06/22/2016 13:09

Last Update Operator.

Richmond, Kevin (COMPANY D / Arkansas State Police)

Last Update Date:

06/22/2016 13:26

Reporting LEO	Date	Supervisor	Date
Mendenhall, Corey (COMPANY D / Arkansas State Police)	LX/.53/2018	Richmond, Kevin (COMPANY D / Arkansas State Police)	8/31/2016

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08/31/2016 13:30:15 Page 1 of 2

## ASP-2016-0112/17 ARKANSAS STATE POLICE (SPECIAL AGENT NOTES)

On Thursday, June 16, 2016, I was contacted by Arkansas State Police (ASP) Sergeant Kevin Richmond and instructed to meet at the Fort Chaffee Joint Maneuver Training Center (FCJMTC), to assist with a death investigation due to a heat related illness.

I met with Sergeant Richmond at the FCJMTC building #1682 to conduct interviews with the following witnesses: Ja'Baurre Davis, James Winters, Gib Richardson, Cody Wright, and Natascha McBride. Those interviews are contained elsewhere within this case file.

**END** 

## INVESTIGATIVE SUPPLEMENT ASP-2016-0112/19

Report Date: 06/22/2016

**Primary Information** 

Description: Special Agent Notes - Bass

Dissemination Code: SYSTEM WIDE ACCESS

Reporting LEO: Bass, Sam (COMPANY D / Arkansas State Police)

Approval Status: Approved
Approved Date: 06/22/2016

Approved By: Richmond, Kevin (COMPANY D / Arkansas State Police)

**Record Status Information** 

Record Origination Operator: Bass, Sam (COMPANY D / Arkansas State Police)

Record Origination Date: 06/22/2016 13:50

Last Update Operator: Richmond, Kevin (COMPANY D / Arkansas State Police)

Last Update Date: 06/22/2016 15:41

Reporting LEO		Supervisor	Date
Bass, Sam (COMPANY D / Arkansas State Police)	8/31/2016	Richmond, Kevin (COMPANY D / Arkansas State Police)	8/31/2016

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08/31/2016 13:30:18 Page 1 of 2

#### ASP-2016-0112/19 ARKANSAS STATE POLICE

(Special Agent Notes)

On June 16, 2016, at approximately 9:15 a.m., I received a call from Sergeant (Sgt) Kevin Richmond. Sgt. Richmond informed me that we were going to begin an investigation on the death of a soldier, which occurred on Ft Chaffee Maneuvering Center. Sgt. Richmond asked me to contact National Guard Captain (Cpt.) Achom at

At 9:37a.m., I contacted Cpt. Achorn by telephone and he informed me that he would be at Building 1682. I told him my estimated time of arrival would be in approximately an hour. I was contacted by Special Agent (SA) Pat Schmidt and S/A Robin Kuykendall. We agreed to meet at the main gate to Ft. Chaffee so that I could lead them to the building. At approximately 10:40 a.m., we met with Cpt. Adhorn at Building 1862. Cpt. Adhorn and Lieutenant Colonel Spafford briefed us about the events that took place prior to the death of Sgt. Cline of the 39<sup>th</sup> Infantry Brigade Combat Team. S/A's Schmidt, Kuykendall and I discussed our strategy on handling the case.

S/A Schmidt and S/A Kuykendall went to building 1615 and proceeded to conduct interviews. I was tasked with going to the scene and taking photographs and diagramming. I drove to Range 100, along with Sgt. Cox of the #9<sup>th</sup> Infantry. Sgt Cox showed me where Sgt. Cline was when he got sick. I took photographs and diagramed the scene. The photo log and diagram will be attached to this case file.

After photographing and diagramming the scene, I returned to the cantonment area and met with Sgt. Richmond, Lieutenant Aaron, S/A's Schmidt, Kuykendall and Mendenhall.

## INVESTIGATIVE SUPPLEMENT ASP-2016-0112/1

Report Date: 06/17/2016

Primary Information

Description:

Interview of Witness - 2nd LT. Daniel Baum

Dissemination Code:

SYSTEM WIDE ACCESS

Reporting LEO:

Schmidt, Patrick (COMPANY D / Arkansas State Police)

Approval Status:

Approved

Approved Date:

06/27/2016

Approved By:

Richmond, Kevin (COMPANY D / Arkansas State Police)

Subject #1 - VICTIM #1 - Cline, Sylvester Bruce

Primary Information

Subject Name:

Cline, Sylvester Bruce

Record Type:

PERSON

Bio:

32 yr. old, BLACK, MALE

Birth Date:

Juvenile:

NO

Place Of Birth State:

ARKANSAS

Relationship Information

Related Offense:

VICTIM of

Personal Information

Ethnicity:

**AMERICAN** 

Height:

600

Weight:

190

Eye Color:

**BROWN BLACK** 

Hair Color: Hair Length:

SHORT

Complexion:

DARK/TAN

Physical Build:

MEDIUM

US Citizen:

YES

Photo:

YES

Deceased:

YES

Date Deceased:

06/14/2016 00:00

Addresses

Relationship

HOME ADDRESS

Address

UNITED STATES

Identifications

**ID** Type

FBI ID SOCIAL

**SECURITY DRIVER LICENSE** 

Number

State

Country **UNITED STATES UNITED STATES** 

As Of Date

**Fictitious** NO NO

Comment

**UNITED STATES 10/11/2013 ARKANSAS** 

NO

Page 1 of 5 08/31/2016 13:29:51

## INVESTIGATIVE SUPPLEMENT ASP-2016-0112/1

Report Date: 06/17/2016

Subject #1 - VICTIM #1 - Cline, Sylvester Bruce - Continued

Identifications - Continued

ID Type Number State Country As Of Date Fictitious Comment

STATE ARKANSAS UNITED STATES --- NO --
IDENTIFICATION NUMBER

Subject #2 - WITNESS #1 - Baum, Daniel Joseph Primary Information Subject Name: Baum, Daniel Joseph Record Type: **PERSON** Bio: 31 yr. old, WHITE, MALE Birth Date: Juvenile: NO Relationship Information Related Offense: WITNESS of Personal Information Ethnicity: **AMERICAN** Height: 511 Weight: 185 Eye Color: **BROWN** Hair Color: BROWN SHORT Hair Length: Hair Style: **STRAIGHT** Physical Build: **MEDIUM** US Citizen: YES Citizenship Country: **UNITED STATES** Photo: YES Deceased: NO Scars, Marks, and Tattoos Location Description <u>Type</u> **Body Part** Side **FRONT** Bird **TATTOO** NECK Addresses Relationship Address **HOME ADDRESS UNITED STATES** Telephones / E-Addresses Number/E-Address Relationship **CELLULAR PHONE** (CELLULAR) Identifications Country Comment ID Type As Of Date Number State

## INVESTIGATIVE SUPPLEMENT ASP-2016-0112/1

Report Date: 06/17/2016

Subject #2 - \	NITNESS #1 - Baum	, Daniel Joseph	- Continued			
Identifications	- Continued	-				
ID Type SOCIAL SECURITY	<u>Number</u>	State	Country UNITED STATES	As Of Date	Fictitious NO	Comment 
DRIVER LICE	NSE STATE	ARKANSAS	UNITED STATES	8/11/2015	NO	W

Record Status Information

Record Origination Operator: Schmidt, Patrick (COMPANY D / Arkansas State Police)

Record Origination Date: 06/17/2016 09:58

Last Update Operator: Richmond, Kevin (COMPANY D / Arkansas State Police)

Last Update Date: 06/27/2016 11:43

Reporting LEO	Date	Supervisor	Date
Schmidt, Patrick (COMPANY D / Arkansas State Police)	8/31/2016	Richmond, Kevin (COMPANY D / Arkansas State Police)	8/31/2016
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08/31/2016 13:29:51 Page 3 of 5

#### ASP-2016-0112/1 ARKANSAS STATE POLICE

(Interview of Witness – 2<sup>nd</sup> LT. Daniel J. Baum)

On Thursday June 16<sup>th</sup> 2016 at 12:21 pm, I interviewed 2<sup>nd</sup> LT. Daniel J. Baum inside Building 1615 at Fort Chaffee Joint Maneuver Training Center (FCJMTC). Baum was the Officer in Charge (OIC) of Range 100 on June 14, 2016 during a training exercise that resulted in the death of Sgt. Sylvester Cline.

Baum stated that he had known Cline for approximately 10 years prior to this incident.

Baum relayed the events of the day to me as follows:

At 0500 Range Support Personnel pushed out with hot food and the drive took them approximately 35 minutes to reach the staging area at Range 100.

The Participant Group left out at 0530. Since it was an objective for the team leaders to navigate to the range they took a different, longer way. It took them approximately 45 minutes - 1 hour to reach Range 100.

At 0630 the Participant group ate and a brief was conducted concerning the day's events. The Administrative Safety Officer also conducted a safety brief before training commenced. The beginning of the training was running behind approximately an hour and a half. When the training started it was already a Heat Category 3 or 4.

At approximately 0800 to 0900 the Dry fire portion of the exercise started.

At this time the water buffalo was asked to be brought to the firing line from the staging area approximately a mile away. During the dry fire portion Baum requested if the troops could drop their protection body armor (plates) but his request was denied by Major Young. Baum stated the dry fire portion was not very good and they had to fix several communication issues. After the third iteration they did a good job and moved to blank fire. They then returned to the staging area for the ammo draw and quick chow.

At approximately 1300 to 1400 the blank fire portion of the exercise started. During this time Baum learned of SPC Jabaurre Davis as a heat casualty.

SGT. Cline was manning a firing position on a .50 caliber machine gun located on the left flank of the firing line. Baum learned of Cline becoming a heat casualty as he walked back unassisted to the medics. During this time he also learned of SPC. Juan Bautista also becoming a heat casualty.

Baum learned that the Medics wanted to transport Davis, Cline and Bautista back to the barracks to cool down. The transport then left Range 100. At this point all three were diagnosed as heat stress casualties.

After blank fire the element broke for dinner. The leadership then had an After Action Review (AAR) where the heat casualties were discussed and how to proceed.

After this SGT. Samuel Kell also became a heat casualty. At this time Range Control called a check fire on the training and requested that OIC Baum be retrained or replaced.

After the leadership learned out about Cline's death they ended the training and cleared the range. During clean up SPC. Shawn Malrick also became a heat casualty. There were a total of five heat casualties for the training evolution.

Baum explained that precautions were taken during the training. There were breaks built into the training, two Ambulances on scene, six medics and two ice dumps brought in during the training.

The interview was concluded at 12:44 pm.

**END** 

#### INVESTIGATIVE SUPPLEMENT ASP-2016-0112/2

Report Date: 06/17/2016

Primary Information

Description: Interview of Witness - 2nd LT. Jonathan Craig

Dissemination Code:

SYSTEM WIDE ACCESS

Reporting LEO:

Schmidt, Patrick (COMPANY D / Arkansas State Police)

Approval Status:

Approved

Approved Date:

06/27/2016

Approved By:

Richmond, Kevin (COMPANY D / Arkansas State Police)

Subject #1 - VICTIM #1 - Cline, Sylvester Bruce Primary Information Subject Name: Cline, Sylvester Bruce PERSON Record Type: 32 yr. old, BLACK, MALE Bio: Birth Date: Juvenile: NO Place Of Birth State: **ARKANSAS** Relationship Information Related Offense: VICTIM of ersonal Information Ethnicity: **AMERICAN** Height: 600 Weight: 190 Eye Color: **BROWN** Hair Color: **BLACK** SHORT Hair Length: Complexion: DARK/TAN Physical Build: MEDIUM US Citizen: YES Photo: YES Deceased: YES

Addresses

**Address** 

06/14/2016 00:00

Relationship

**HOME ADDRESS** 

Date Deceased:

Identifications

ID Type FBI ID SOCIAL SECURITY

DRIVER LICENSE

Number

State

Country **UNITED STATES UNITED STATES** 

As Of Date

UNITED STATES

**Fictitious** NO NO

Comment

UNITED STATES 10/11/2013 **ARKANSAS** 

NO

Page 1 of 4

## INVESTIGATIVE SUPPLEMENT ASP-2016-0112/2

Report Date: 06/17/2016

Subject #1 - VICTIM #1 - Cline, Sylvester Bruce - Continued

Identifications - Continued

ID Type Number State Country As Of Date Fictitious Comment

STATE ARKANSAS UNITED STATES --- NO --IDENTIFICATION NO --NUMBER

Subject #2 - WITNESS #1 - Craig, Jonathan M. Primary Information Subject Name: Craig, Jonathan M. Record Type: **PERSON** Bio: 35 yr. old, WHITE, MALE Birth Date: Juvenile: NO Relationship Information Related Offense: WITNESS of Personal Information Ethnicity: **AMERICAN** Height: 601 'Veight: 200 Eye Color: HAZEL Hair Color: **BROWN** SHORT Hair Length: Physical Build: MEDIUM US Citizen: YES Citizenship Country: **UNITED STATES** Photo: YES Deceased: NO Addresses Relationship Address **HOME ADDRESS** UNITED STATES Telephones / E-Addresses Relationship Number/E-Address **CELLULAR PHONE** (CELLULAR) Identifications Number ID Type State Country **Fictitious** Comment SOCIAL **UNITED STATES** NO **SECURITY** NO DRIVER LICENSE **ARKANSAS** UNITED STATES

08/31/2016 13:29:53 Page 2 of 4

## **INVESTIGATIVE SUPPLEMENT ASP-2016-0112/2**

Report Date: 06/17/2016

**Record Status Information** 

Record Origination Operator:

Schmidt, Patrick (COMPANY D / Arkansas State Police)

Record Origination Date:

06/17/2016 10:06

Last Update Operator:

Richmond, Kevin (COMPANY D / Arkansas State Police)

Last Update Date:

06/27/2016 11:41

Reporting LEO		Supervisor	Date
Schmidt, Patrick (COMPANY D / Arkansas State Police)	8/31/2016	Richmond, Kevin (COMPANY D / Arkansas State Police)	8/31/2016

Narrative begins on the following page.		

08/31/2016 13:29:53 Page 3 of 4

#### ASP-2016-0112/2 ARKANSAS STATE POLICE

(Interview of Witness - Jonathan M. Craig)

On Thursday June 16<sup>th</sup> 2016 at 12:58 pm, I interviewed 2<sup>nd</sup> Lt. Jonathan M. Craig inside Building 1615 at Fort Chaffee Joint Maneuver Training Center (FCJMTC). Craig was one of team leaders assigned to Range 100 on 14 June 2016 during a training exercise that resulted in the death of Sgt. Sylvester Cline. This is a synopsis of the important events stated during the interview.

Craig was Cline's direct team leader over his firing position. Craig relayed the events of the training to me as follows.

At 0430 they assembled at the motor pool and left at 0500. At 0545 they arrived at the assembly area at Range 100, where a range and safety brief was conducted.

At 0730 they broke from the assembly area and went to set up the range to include each firing position. From there he noticed the guys were working hard and Craig foresaw a need to relocate the water buffalo to the firing line. His request was denied. At 0830 he stated that they where red on water in their personal hydration systems (camel backs) and by 0945 they were black (empty) on water. The water buffalo was finally brought to the firing line and the troops were able to replenish their packs.

At approximately 1130 the dry fire portion of the exercise started. At this time Craig noted the heat category rising. Craig had his troops conduct a LACE report, LIQUIDS, AMMO, CASUALTIES, and EQUIPMENT. This helped Craig access the situation that they were currently in.

After 2-3 iterations of dry fire, Craig started to see the first and second heat casualties. Craig thinks that Cline was the third heat casualty that the unit suffered during the exercise.

After dry fire, the squad took a break for the ammo draw and quick chow before moving into the blank firing exercise. During this blank firing evolution he noticed that Cline walked off the firing line and sought medical treatment. From his observation he did not think that it was a serious issue since Cline walked away, he was talking and was cognizant the whole time.

Craig did not witness any of Cline's medical treatment once he left the firing line. Craig stated that he requested to his chain of command the need for more water and the relocation of the water buffalo on more than two occasions. Craig stated that he thinks this was an avoidable accident.

The interview was concluded at 1:25pm.

**END** 

## INVESTIGATIVE SUPPLEMENT ASP-2016-0112/3

Report Date: 06/17/2016

Primary Information

Interview of Witness - Sgt. Calvin Neal Description:

Dissemination Code:

SYSTEM WIDE ACCESS

Reporting LEO:

Schmidt, Patrick (COMPANY D / Arkansas State Police)

Approval Status:

Approved

Approved Date:

06/27/2016

Approved By:

Richmond, Kevin (COMPANY D / Arkansas State Police)

Subject #1 - VICTIM #1 - Cline, Sylvester Bruce

Primary Information

Subject Name:

Cline, Sylvester Bruce

Record Type:

PERSON

Bio:

32 yr. old, BLACK, MALE

Birth Date:

Juvenile:

Place Of Birth State:

- ARKANSAS

Relationship Information

Related Offense:

**VICTIM** of

Personal Information

Ethnicity:

**AMERICAN** 

Height:

600

Weight:

190

Eye Color:

**BROWN** 

Hair Color:

**BLACK** 

Hair Length: Complexion: SHORT

Physical Build:

DARK/TAN MEDIUM

US Citizen:

YES

Photo:

YES

Deceased:

YES

Date Deceased:

06/14/2016 00:00

Addresses

Relationship

Address

**HOME ADDRESS** 

Identifications

**ID Type** FBI ID SOCIAL SECURITY

State

Country **UNITED STATES UNITED STATES** 

As Of Date

**UNITED STATES** 

**Fictitious** NO

Comment

NO

NO

**DRIVER LICENSE** 

**ARKANSAS** 

UNITED STATES 10/11/2013

Page 1 of 4

## INVESTIGATIVE SUPPLEMENT ASP-2016-0112/3

Report Date: 06/17/2016

Subject #1 -	VICTIM #1 - Cline;	Sylvester Bruce -	Continued			
Identification	s - Continued					
ID Type	Number	<u>State</u>	Country	As Of Date	<u>Fictitious</u>	Comment
STATE	Ž.	ARKANSAS	UNITED STATES		ИО	
IDENTIFICAT	ION S					
NUMBER						

Subject #2 - WITNESS	#1 - Neal, Calvin D.				
Primary Information					
Subject Name: Neal,	Calvin D.				
Record Type: PERS	SON				
Bio: 34 yr	old, BLACK, MALE				
Birth Date:					
Juvenile: NO					
Relationship Information	i				
Related Offense: WI	TNESS of				
Personal Information	entropies de la company de La company de la company d	To a 18 to a 4 a sum sa 107 and sum traval (at Francia) to a so 707 and 9 a t			
Ethnicity:	AMERICAN			.•	
Height:	510				
Weight:	147				
Eye Color:	BROWN				
Hair Color:	BROWN				
Hair Length:	SHORT				
Physical Build:	THIN				
US Citizen:	YES				
Citizenship Country:	UNITED STATES				
Photo:	YES				
Deceased:	NO				
Addresses				:	
Relationship	Address				· ·
HOME ADDRESS			, UNITED ST	ATES	
Telephones / E-Address	es				
Relationship	Number/E-Address				
CELLULAR PHONE	(CELLULAR)				
Identifications	. 1 . "			*	
ID Type Numl		Country	As Of Date	<u>Fictitious</u>	Comment
FBI ID SOCIAL		UNITED STATES UNITED STATES		NO NO	***
SECURITY		JHILL GIAILG			
DRIVER LICENSE	ARKANSAS	UNITED STATES	2/12/2016	NO	**************************************
STATE DENTIFICATION NUMBER	ARKANSAS	UNITED STATES		NO	

## INVESTIGATIVE SUPPLEMENT ASP-2016-0112/3

Report Date: 06/17/2016

**Record Status Information** 

Record Origination Operator:

Schmidt, Patrick (COMPANY D / Arkansas State Police)

Record Origination Date:

06/17/2016 10:07

Last Update Operator:

Richmond, Kevin (COMPANY D / Arkansas State Police)

Last Update Date:

06/27/2016 11:21

		Supervisor	Date
Schmidt, Patrick (COMPANY D / Arkansas State Police)	8/31/2016	Richmond, Kevin (COMPANY D / Arkansas State Police)	8/31/2016

Narrative begins on the following page.

#### ASP-2016-0112/3 ARKANSAS STATE POLICE

(Interview of Witness - Sgt. Calvin D. Neal)

On Thursday June 16<sup>th</sup> 2016 at 1:30 pm, I interviewed Sgt. Calvin D. Neal inside Building 1615 at Fort Chaffee Joint Maneuver Training Center (FCJMTC). Neal was assigned to a firing position with Sgt. Sylvester Cline at Range 100 on 14 June 2016 during a training exercise that resulted in the death of Sgt. Cline. This is a synopsis of the important events stated during the interview. This is not a verbatim statement.

Neal has known Cline for approximately seven years and considered him a friend. During the training exercise they were paired together. After breakfast they set up their fining position at approximately 0730. They were manning a .50 caliber machine gun on a tripod. Neal stated that the fining position was set up in the open with no cover available from the sun. Once they were set up the whole exercise had to standby as an un-exploded ordinance (UEO) was discovered. Neal stated that this delayed the process. During set up Neal stated that Cline had forgotten his personal hydration system (camel back) in one of the transport trucks he was riding in. During this time both he and Cline were both drinking from Neal's camel back. Cline was then able to retrieve his later from the truck.

Neal thinks that dry fire started at approximately 1000 or 1030. They then had lunch. He noticed that Cline was sweating a lot, as was everyone. He also noted that Cline was hydrating throughout this time.

After lunch they then began the blank fire portion of the exercise. Neal relayed that Cline stepped off the line and took a little break before coming back. Neal stated that Cline then got down on the gun to attempt his blank fire. Neal relayed that Cline started cramping in his legs and could not complete the drill. Neal stated he never fired, got up and was trying to work out the cramps. Cline stepped off the line for a second time and relocated to a shaded area where he was taking a break. Neal then stated that Sgt. Scaife then brought him to the attention of the medics.

Neal stated that this was the last time he saw Cline. SPC. Blevins came in to take Cline's spot and the exercise continued. Neal stated that Cline was always himself, joking around during the training. He was complaining it was hot but everyone was complaining about it. He stated that Cline is in good shape and that he plays basketball and football. Neal stated that Cline was hydrating throughout the day and to his knowledge that Cline never ran out of water. Between the two of them in that firing position neither of them was ever out of water.

The interview was concluded at 1:45 pm.

**END** 

## INVESTIGATIVE SUPPLEMENT ASP-2016-0112/4

Report Date: 06/17/2016

Primary Information

Description: Interview of Witness - Sgt. Dakendrick M. Scaife

SYSTEM WIDE ACCESS Dissemination Code:

Reporting LEO: Schmidt, Patrick (COMPANY D / Arkansas State Police)

Approval Status: Approved Approved Date: 06/27/2016

Richmond, Kevin (COMPANY D / Arkansas State Police) Approved By:

#### Subject #1 - VICTIM #1 - Cline, Sylvester Bruce

Primary Information

Subject Name: Cline, Sylvester Bruce

Record Type: PERSON

Bio: 32 yr. old, BLACK, MALE

Birth Date:

Juvenile: NO

Place Of Birth State: **ARKANSAS** 

Relationship Information

Related Offense: VICTIM of

ersonal Information

Ethnicity: **AMERICAN** 

Height: 600 190 Weight: BROWN Eye Color:

Hair Color: **BLACK** SHORT Hair Length: Complexion: DARK/TAN Physical Build: MEDIUM

US Citizen: YES Photo: YES Deceased: YES

06/14/2016 00:00 Date Deceased:

Addresses

Relationship HOME ADDRESS **UNITED STATES** 

Identifications

As Of Date **Fictitious** Comment ID Type Country Number State NO **UNITED STATES** FBI ID SOCIAL **UNITED STATES** NO

SECURITY

**DRIVER LICENSE** ARKANSAS **UNITED STATES** 10/11/2013 NO

Page 1 of 4 08/31/2016 13:29:56

## INVESTIGATIVE SUPPLEMENT ASP-2016-0112/4

Report Date: 06/17/2016

Subject #1 - VICTIM #1 - Cline, Sylvester Bruce - Continued

Identifications - Continued

Number ID Type

STATE IDENTIFICATION

State **ARKANSAS**  Country **UNITED STATES** 

As Of Date

**Fictitious** NO

Comment

Subject #2 - WITNESS #1 - Scaife, Dakendrick M.

Primary Information

Subject Name: Scaife, Dakendrick M.

Record Type: **PERSON** 

Bio:

31 yr. old, BLACK, MALE

Birth Date:

NUMBER

Juvenile:

NO

Relationship Information

Related Offense: WITNESS of

Personal Information

Ethnicity:

AMERICAN

Height: Veight: 506 180

Eye Color:

**BROWN** 

Hair Color:

BLACK

Hair Length: US Citizen:

SHORT

YES **UNITED STATES** 

Citizenship Country:

YES

Photo:

Deceased:

NO

Addresses

Relationship

**HOME ADDRESS** 

Address

**UNITED STATES** 

Identifications

ID Type SOCIAL

State

Country **UNITED STATES** 

As Of Date

**Fictitious** NO

Comment

**SECURITY DRIVER LICENSE** 

**ARKANSAS** 

**UNITED STATES** 2/2/2016 NO

Record Status Information

Record Origination Operator:

Schmidt, Patrick (COMPANY D / Arkansas State Police)

Record Origination Date:

06/17/2016 10:08

Last Update Operator:

Richmond, Kevin (COMPANY D / Arkansas State Police)

Last Update Date:

06/27/2016 15:37

Page 2 of 4

## INVESTIGATIVE SUPPLEMENT ASP-2016-0112/4

Report Date: 06/17/2016

		Supervisor	Date
Schmidt, Patrick (COMPANY D / Arkansas State Police)	8/31/2016	Richmond, Kevin (COMPANY D / Arkansas State Police)	8/31/2016

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08/31/2016 13:29:56 Page 3 of 4

#### ASP-2016-0112/4 ARKANSAS STATE POLICE

(Interview of Witness - Sgt. Dakendrick M. Scaife)

On Thursday June 16<sup>th</sup> 2016 at 1:47 pm, I interviewed Sgt. Dakendrick M. Scaife inside Building 1615 at Fort Chaffee Joint Maneuver Training Center (FCJMTC). Scaife was assigned as a small arms master gunner at Range 100 on June14, 2016 during a training exercise that resulted in the death of Sgt. Cline. This is a synopsis of the important events stated during the interview.

Scaife has known Cline for approximately 12 years. He noticed that Cline was sweating a lot that morning. Scaife due to his job was walking between the different firing positions and helping with weapon related issues as they would arise. He observed Cline throughout the day and stated that he was acting like himself.

After Chow during blank fire, Scaife observed Cline away from the firing line under a shade tree drinking water. Cline told him that he was just taking a break then returned to the firing line shortly thereafter. Approximately 20-25 minutes later Scaife observed Cline walking off the line and helped him over to the ambulance. While walking over Cline said that he was trying to get the cramps out and just needed to cool down. Cline then told Scaife that he was wearing down. Even at the ambulance Scaife said that Cline was acting like himself, was responsive but was just tired. Once Cline was at the Ambulance Scaife back and continued in the training exercise

The interview was concluded at 1:55 pm.

**END** 

## INVESTIGATIVE SUPPLEMENT ASP-2016-0112/5

Report Date: 06/17/2016

Primary Information

Description:

Interview of Witness - Sgt. Nathan W. Sutton

Dissemination Code:

SYSTEM WIDE ACCESS

Reporting LEO:

Schmidt, Patrick (COMPANY D / Arkansas State Police)

Approval Status:

Approved 07/06/2016

Approved Date: Approved By:

Richmond, Kevin (COMPANY D / Arkansas State Police)

Subject #1 - VICTIM #1 - Cline, Sylvester Bruce

Primary Information

Subject Name:

Cline, Sylvester Bruce

Record Type:

PERSON

Bio:

32 yr. old, BLACK, MALE

Birth Date:

Juvenile:

NO

Place Of Birth State:

ARKANSAS

Relationship Information

Related Offense:

VICTIM of

Personal Information

Ethnicity:

AMERICAN

Height:

600

Weight:

190

Eye Color:

BROWN

Hair Color:

BLACK SHORT

Hair Length: Complexion:

DARK/TAN

Physical Build:

MEDIUM

US Citizen:

YES

Photo:

YES

Deceased:

YES

Date Deceased:

06/14/2016 00:00

Addresses

Relationship

HOME ADDRESS

Address

**UNITED STATES** 

Identifications

ID Type

FBI ID SOCIAL

SECURITY
DRIVER LICENSE

<u>Number</u>

State

**ARKANSAS** 

e <u>Cor</u> UNI UNI

Country
UNITED STATES
UNITED STATES

**UNITED STATES** 

As Of Date

10/11/2013

Fictitious NO NO Comment

NO NO

NO

## INVESTIGATIVE SUPPLEMENT ASP-2016-0112/5

Report Date: 06/17/2016

Subject #1 - VICTIM #1 - Cline, Sylvester Bruce - Continued

Identifications - Continued

ID Type Number State Country As Of Date Fictitious Comment

STATE ARKANSAS UNITED STATES --- NO --
IDENTIFICATION NUMBER

Subject #2 - WITNESS #1 - Sutton, Nathan Wade Primary Information Subject Name: Sutton, Nathan Wade Record Type: **PERSON** Bio: 22 yr. old, WHITE, MALE Birth Date: Juvenile: NO Relationship Information Related Offense: WITNESS of Personal Information Ethnicity: **AMERICAN** Height: 510 'Neight: 180 Eye Color: **GREEN** Hair Color: **BLONDE** Hair Length: SHORT Hair Style: STRAIGHT Complexion: MEDIUM Physical Build: MEDIUM US Citizen: YES Citizenship Country: **UNITED STATES** Photo: YES NO Deceased: Addresses Relationship Address **HOME ADDRESS** UNITED STATES Telephones / E-Addresses Relationship Number/E-Address **CELLULAR PHONE** (CELLULAR) Identifications **ID** Type Country **Fictitious** Number State As Of Date Comment SOCIAL **UNITED STATES** NO **SECURITY** 

08/31/2016 13:29:58 Page 2 of 5

**UNITED STATES** 

8/28/2014

NO

**ARKANSAS** 

**DRIVER LICENSE** 

## **INVESTIGATIVE SUPPLEMENT ASP-2016-0112/5**

Report Date: 06/17/2016

**Record Status Information** 

Record Origination Operator:

Schmidt, Patrick (COMPANY D / Arkansas State Police)

Record Origination Date:

06/17/2016 10:10

Last Update Operator:

Richmond, Kevin (COMPANY D / Arkansas State Police)

Last Update Date:

07/06/2016 11:54

		Supervisor	Date
Schmidt, Patrick (COMPANY D / Arkansas State Police)	8/31/2016	Richmond, Kevin (COMPANY D / Arkansas State Police)	8/31/2016

Narrative begins on the following page	

08/31/2016 13:29:58 Page 3 of 5

#### ASP-2016-0112/5 ARKANSAS STATE POLICE

(Interview of Witness - Sgt. Nathan W. Sutton)

On Thursday June 16<sup>th</sup> 2016 at 2:00 pm, I interviewed Sgt. Nathan W. Sutton inside Building 1615 at Fort Chaffee Joint Maneuver Training Center (FCJMTC). Sutton was assigned as a Medic at Range 100 on June 14, 2016 during a training exercise that resulted in the death of Sgt. Sylvester Cline. This is a synopsis of the important events stated during the interview.

Sutton relayed that SPC. Fields had treated Cline as a heat casualty after he came off the line during blank fire. Sutton relayed that Cline got to the ambulance at approximately 4:15 pm. Sutton stated that Cline seemed alert his O2 sat at 99 and his pulse was 70-75. Sutton stated that Cline was hydrating with Gatorade and water but more so with water.

The decision was made to transport Cline and the other heat casualties back to barracks to cool down. SPC. Witters was driving the ambulance and they pulled off at 4:30 pm. The original plan for EVAC was to have another ambulance meet them at ambulance pick up point 6. They were then going to transfer the heat casualties into the other ambulance so they could then return to the exercise. Sutton stated that Cline started to decline when they were 15 minutes into the EVAC. By the time they reached ambulance pick up point 6 at 5:00 pm, it was decided to quickly offload the other two heat casualties at the other ambulance and proceed to the Troop Medical Center (TMC). At roughly 5:00 pm an IV was started on Cline, ice sheets and a pulse ox applied. Sutton stated that Cline was still talking and responsive during this time as Sutton was asking him medical history questions. Sutton's information from Cline gamered no prior medical issues. The ambulance made it to the FCJMTC front gate at 5:10 pm. Sutton relayed at that point he knew Cline's condition was deteriorating as he was experiencing an altered mental status. Cline could not remember his rank when Sutton asked. Sutton stated Cline was reclined on a backpack during this transport time. They arrived at the TMC at 5:15 pm; Cline was still able to talk but couldn't walk. Once at the TMC since he wasn't able to walk they laid him down on a litter. As they offloaded him from the ambulance Cline's head momentarily fell below his heart level. Cline then vomited a red substance (that Sutton thought was red Gatorade) and light food. They moved him to the trauma room of the TMC where Sutton stated that Cline was still conscious but was gasping for air. They began to suction between Cline intermittingly vomiting. Cline was still fighting for a breath but was declining rapidly at that point. They established a nasal airway and then began CPR. While giving breath via a manual resuscitator a pink frothy substance began to appear inside it. The flight medics arrived and after an unsuccessful attempt Cline was successfully intubated with a King LT airway. During this time the IV had to be reapplied as it began detached during CPR. Once reapplied Atropine was administered to Cline and he was hooked up to an AED- Heart Monitor. Next, Cline was giving epinephrine while his pulse went in and out. They prepped Cline for flight while CPR was continued to the Lakota med flight helicopter. CPR was continued by the flight medics to the Hospital. According to Sutton at the time he began the flight to the hospital he classified Cline's status as critical.

Sutton mentioned that heat casualties usually become better as treatments are applied but if not there is a noticeable stair step decline. Sutton relayed that he had never seen a heat casualty decline as rapidly as Cline. Sutton likened his decline to falling off a cliff.

The interview was concluded at 2:45 pm.

## INVESTIGATIVE SUPPLEMENT ASP-2016-0112/6

Report Date: 06/17/2016

Primary Information

Interview of Witness - Spc. Kristopher R. Fields Description:

Dissemination Code:

SYSTEM WIDE ACCESS

Reporting LEO:

Schmidt, Patrick (COMPANY D / Arkansas State Police)

Approval Status: Approved 07/06/2016 Approved Date:

Approved By: Richmond, Kevin (COMPANY D / Arkansas State Police)

Subject #1 - VICTIM #1 - Cline, Sylvester Bruce

Primary Information

Subject Name:

Cline, Sylvester Bruce

Record Type:

**PERSON** 

Bio:

32 yr. old, BLACK, MALE

Birth Date:

Juvenile:

NO

Place Of Birth State:

ARKANSAS

Relationship Information

Related Offense:

VICTIM of

ersonal Information

Ethnicity:

**AMERICAN** 

Height:

600

Weight:

190

Eye Color: Hair Color: **BROWN** 

Hair Length:

**BLACK** SHORT

Complexion:

DARK/TAN

Physical Build:

**MEDIUM** 

US Citizen:

YES

Photo:

YES

Deceased:

YES

Date Deceased: 06/14/2016 00:00

Addresses

Relationship

**HOME ADDRESS** 

**UNITED STATES** 

Identifications

ID Type

FBI ID SOCIAL **SECURITY** 

Number **DRIVER LICENSE** 

<u>State</u>

Country

**UNITED STATES** 

As Of Date

**Fictitious** NO

Comment

UNITED STATES

NO

**ARKANSAS UNITED STATES** 10/11/2013

NO

Page 1 of 4 08/31/2016 13:29:59

#### INVESTIGATIVE SUPPLEMENT ASP-2016-0112/6

Report Date: 06/17/2016

Subject #1 - VICTIM #1 - Cline, Sylvester Bruce - Continued

Identifications - Continued

ID Type Number State Country As Of Date Fictitious Comment

STATE ARKANSAS UNITED STATES --- NO --
IDENTIFICATION NUMBER

Subject #2 - WITNESS #1 - Fields, Kristopher Ryan Primary Information Subject Name: Fields, Kristopher Ryan Record Type: PERSON Bio: 23 yr. old, BLACK, MALE Birth Date: Juvenile: NO Relationship Information Related Offense: WITNESS of Personal Information Ethnicity: **AMERICAN** Height: 603 Weight: 257 Eye Color: **BROWN** Hair Color: **BLACK** Hair Length: SHORT Complexion: DARK/TAN US Citizen: YES Citizenship Country: **UNITED STATES** Photo: YES Deceased: NO Addresses Relationship Address **HOME ADDRESS UNITED STATES** Telephones / E-Addresses Relationship Number/E-Address **CELLULAR PHONE** (CELLULAR) Identifications **ID** Type As Of Date **Fictitious** Comment Number State Country SOCIAL NO **UNITED STATES SECURITY UNITED STATES** 2/29/2016 NO DRIVER LICENSE **ARKANSAS** STATE **ARKANSAS UNITED STATES** NO IDENTIFICATION NUMBER

08/31/2016 13:29:59 Page 2 of 4

## INVESTIGATIVE SUPPLEMENT ASP-2016-0112/6

Report Date: 06/17/2016

**Record Status Information** 

Record Origination Operator:

Schmidt, Patrick (COMPANY D / Arkansas State Police)

Record Origination Date:

06/17/2016 10:11

07/06/2016 11:56

Last Update Operator:

Richmond, Kevin (COMPANY D / Arkansas State Police)

Last Update Date:

Reporting LEO		Supervisor	Date
Schmidt, Patrick (COMPANY D / Arkansas State Police)	8/31/2016	Richmond, Kevin (COMPANY D / Arkansas State Police)	8/31/2016

Narrative begins on the following page.

08/31/2016 13:29:59 Page 3 of 4

#### ASP-2016-0112/6 ARKANSAS STATE POLICE

(Interview of Witness - Spc. Kristopher R. Fields)

On Thursday June 16<sup>th</sup> 2016 at 2:51 pm, I interviewed Spc. Kristopher R. Fields inside Building 1615 at Fort Chaffee Joint Maneuver Training Center (FCJMTC). Fields was assigned as a Medic at Range 100 on 14 June 2016 during a training exercise that resulted in the death of Sgt. Sylvester Cline. This is a synopsis of the important events stated during the interview. This is not a verbatim statement.

Fields noticed Cline throughout the morning working hard. By the break at 1:00pm during the ammo pull for blank fire he noticed Cline sweating profusely but his skin was dry. Cline seemed alert and normal at this time. During blank fire, Fields continued walking around checking on people when he noticed Cline looking tired. Approximately an hour later Cline became a heat casualty when he stepped off the line. Cline took a break and then returned to the exercise. After attempting to continue Cline once again stepped off the line and relocated to a shady area for treatment. Fields stated that at this time Cline was complaining of a headache and cramps in his legs and back. After a short intermission where Cline stripped off his gear to rest they walked together to the Ambulance and care was transferred over to Sgt. Sutton. During this period of time Cline was alert, responsive and acting like himself.

Fields stated the working conditions were a heat category 4/5 that day.

The interview was concluded at 3:01 pm.

#### INVESTIGATIVE SUPPLEMENT ASP-2016-0112/9

Report Date: 06/17/2016

**Primary Information** 

Description: Interview of Witness-Sgt. James Barlow

Occurrence From:

06/16/2016 12:15

Occurrence To:

06/16/2016 12:35

Dissemination Code:

SYSTEM WIDE ACCESS

Reporting LEO:

Kuykendall, Robin (COMPANY D / Arkansas State Police)

Approval Status: Approved Date:

Approved 06/22/2016

Approved Bate.

Approved By:

Richmond, Kevin (COMPANY D / Arkansas State Police)

Subject #1 - WITNESS #1 - Barlow, James SGT

Primary Information

Subject Name:

Barlow, James SGT

Record Type:

**PERSON** 

Bio:

21 yr. old, WHITE, MALE

Birth Date:

......

Juvenile:

NO

Relationship Information

Related Offense:

WITNESS of

Personal Information

Ethnicity:

**AMERICAN** 

Height:

73

Weight:

155 HAZEL

Eye Color:

\_\_\_\_

Hair Color:

RED

Hair Length:

SHORT

Addresses

Relationship

<u>Address</u>

**HOME ADDRESS** 

Telephones / E-Addresses

.

Relationship

Number/E-Address

CELLULAR PHONE

(CELLULAR)

Identifications

ID Type SOCIAL <u>Number</u>

State

Country
UNITED STATES

As Of Date 6/16/2016

**UNITED STATES** 

Fictitious NO

Comment

SECURITY

DRIVER LICENSE

ARKANSAS

6/16/2016

NO

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**Record Status Information** 

Record Origination Operator:

Kuykendall, Robin (COMPANY D / Arkansas State Police)

08/31/2016 13:30:04 Page 1 of 3

### **INVESTIGATIVE SUPPLEMENT ASP-2016-0112/9**

Report Date: 06/17/2016

Record Status Information - Continued

Record Origination Date:

06/20/2016 15:46

Last Update Operator:

Richmond, Kevin (COMPANY D / Arkansas State Police)

Last Update Date:

06/22/2016 13:46

Reporting LEO	Date	Supervisor	Date
Kuykendall, Robin (COMPANY D / Arkansas State Police)	8/31/2016	Richmond, Kevin (COMPANY D / Arkansas State Police)	8/31/2016

Narrative begins on the following page.

08/31/2016 13:30:04 Page 2 of 3

# ASP-2016-0112/9 ARKANSAS STATE POLICE (Interview of Witness-Sgt. James Barlow)

On Thursday, June 16, 2016, I interviewed Sgt. James Barlow in Building 1615 at the Fort Chaffee Joint Maneuver Training Center (FCJMTC). The purpose of the interview was to ascertain what information, if any, Barlow had regarding the death investigation of Specialist Sylvester Cline. Barlow was assigned on the range as a safety officer for the training exercise. This interview began at 12:15 pm. The following is a summary of that interview.

Barlow said they had been on the exercise for approximately six to eight hours and that he was the safety officer on the Cline's firing line. Barlow said the heat was extreme and that there was no shade at all at their location. Barlow said they had attempted to build cover using camouflage netting, but they couldn't get it to stay up due to the hard soil at that location.

Barlow said Cline was manning a .50 caliber machine gun point at that location and that they had gone through their walk through of the exercise, dry fire phase and was in the process of conducting the blank fire phase of the exercise.

Barlow said they would take breaks in the shade and drink water from their camelbaks, and occasionally drink Gatorade located at the water buffalo behind the firing line. Barlow said they would refill their camelbaks from the water buffalo, which contained ice water.

Barlow said Cline was sitting on his rear-end on plywood located behind the .50 cal machine gun. Barlow said Cline got up and complained of leg cramps. Barlow said Cline was sweating as they all were, but did not show any signs of distress. Barlow said Cline was smiling and talking. Barlow said Cline walked away toward the shady area, which was located approximately 85 meters behind them. Barlow said as Cline walked away, he said he was fine, that he just had a leg cramp.

Barlow said approximately five minutes after Cline had left his position; he heard over the radio that there was a heat casualty. Barlow shortly after he heard over the radio they had an additional heat casualty.

Barlow said he was told that Cline, walked fine all the way back to the ambulance (FLA).

Barlow said that at one point or another, they all felt as if they were going to go out. Barlow said he got leg cramps, but had worked it off, Barlow said Cline had told him during the day that he did not feel well.

Barlow said he had heard that Specialist Bautista had gone down.

This interview was concluded at 12:35 pm.

### INVESTIGATIVE SUPPLEMENT ASP-2016-0112/10

Report Date: 06/17/2016

Primary Information

Description: Interview of Witness-Sgt. David Asbury

Occurrence From:

06/16/2016 12:58

Occurrence To:

06/16/2016 13:10

Dissemination Code:

SYSTEM WIDE ACCESS

Reporting LEO:

Kuykendall, Robin (COMPANY D / Arkansas State Police)

Approval Status: Approved Date:

Approved 06/22/2016

Approved By:

Richmond, Kevin (COMPANY D / Arkansas State Police)

Subject #1 - WITNESS #1 - Asbury, David SGT

Primary Information

Subject Name: Asbury, David SGT

Record Type:

PERSON

Bio:

24 yr. old, WHITE, MALE

Birth Date:

Juvenile:

NO

Relationship Information

Related Offense:

WITNESS of

Personal Information

Ethnicity:

**AMERICAN** 

Height:

70

Weight:

159

Eye Color:

**BROWN** 

Hair Color:

**BROWN** 

Hair Length:

SHORT

Telephones / E-Addresses

Relationship

Number/E-Address

**CELLULAR PHONE** 

(CELLULAR)

Identifications

ID Type SOCIAL

**SECURITY** 

**DRIVER LICENSE** 

Number

**State** 

Country **UNITED STATES** 

As Of Date 6/16/2016

Fictitious NO

Comment

**ARKANSAS** 

6/16/2016

NO

Record Status Information

Record Origination Operator:

Kuykendall, Robin (COMPANY D / Arkansas State Police)

Record Origination Date:

06/20/2016 15:54

Last Update Operator:

Richmond, Kevin (COMPANY D / Arkansas State Police)

Last Update Date:

06/22/2016 13:43

## INVESTIGATIVE SUPPLEMENT ASP-2016-0112/10

Report Date: 06/17/2016

Reporting LEO	Date	Supervisor	Date
Kuykendall, Robin (COMPANY D / Arkansas State Police)	1873377036	Richmond, Kevin (COMPANY D / Arkansas State Police)	8/31/2016

08/31/2016 13:30:05 Page 2 of 3

## ASP-2016-0112/10 ARKANSAS STATE POLICE (Interview of Witness-Sgt. David Asbury)

On Thursday, June 16, 2016, I interviewed Sgt. David Asbury in Building 1615 at the Fort Chaffee Joint Maneuver Training Center (FCJMTC). The purpose of the interview was to ascertain what information, if any, Asbury had regarding the death investigation of Specialist Sylvester Cline. Asbury was assigned on the exercise as a buddy safety officer for the training exercise. This interview began at 12:58 pm. The following is a summary of that interview.

Asbury said he was manning an M4 position as a quick reactionary force (QRF) between the .50 caliber machine gun and an M249 light machine gun. Asbury said he was about forty to fifty yards away. Asbury said when Cline cramped up and came off the line, he came into his area to get into the shade. Asbury said he told Cline to downgrade his gear and take his top off. Asbury said as soon as he got all his gear off, he instructed him to start drinking water. Asbury said SSG Kell came up and told him to call it up for the medics to evac him out.

Asbury said he called Lt. Baum, the officer in charge (OIC), and asked for a real world casualty evacuation for a heat related illness. Asbury said they were simulating war casualties, during the exercise.

Asbury said Cline walked to the medics and the field litter ambulance (FLA). Asbury said he didn't see Cline again.

Asbury said Kell fell out afterward and had to be evac from the firing line. Asbury said Spc. Bautista also fell out with cramps. Asbury said he was also aware that an armorer had fallen out in the bleacher area.

Asbury said it was his job to see that the soldiers drank plenty of water and to refill their camelbaks. Asbury said he observed Cline drinking water as he was suppose to.

Asbury said there were approximately ten to twelve heat casualties and approximately half of those were transported to the Troop Medical Center (TMC).

This interview was concluded at 1:10 pm.

#### INVESTIGATIVE SUPPLEMENT ASP-2016-0112/11

Report Date: 06/17/2016

Primary Information

Interview of Witness-Sgt. Terrance Anderson Description:

06/16/2016 13:13 Occurrence From: Occurrence To: 06/16/2016 13:23

SYSTEM WIDE ACCESS Dissemination Code:

Kuykendall, Robin (COMPANY D / Arkansas State Police) Reporting LEO:

Approval Status: Approved Approved Date: 06/22/2016

Richmond, Kevin (COMPANY D / Arkansas State Police) Approved By:

Subject #1 - WITNESS #1 - Anderson, Terrance SGT

Primary Information

Subject Name: Anderson, Terrance SGT

Record Type: PERSON

28 yr. old, BLACK, MALE Bio:

Birth Date:

Juvenile:

NO

Relationship Information

Related Offense: WITNESS of

Personal Information

**AMERICAN** Ethnicity:

72 Height: Weight: 190 Eye Color: **BROWN** Hair Color: **BLACK** 

Addresses Relationship

**HOME ADDRESS** 

Hair Length:

SHORT

UNITED STATES

Telephones / E-Addresses

Relationship Number/E-Address

**CELLULAR PHONE** (CELLULAR)

Address

Identifications

As Of Date **Fictitious** Comment ID Type Country Number State 6/16/2016 NO **UNITED STATES** SOCIAL

**SECURITY** NO DRIVER LICENSE 6/16/2016 ARKANSAS

Record Status Information

Kuykendall, Robin (COMPANY D / Arkansas State Police) Record Origination Operator:

# Arkansas State Police INVESTIGATIVE SUPPLEMENT ASP-2016-0112/11

Report Date: 06/17/2016

Record Status Information - Continued

Record Origination Date:

06/20/2016 16:01

Last Update Operator:

Richmond, Kevin (COMPANY D / Arkansas State Police)

Last Update Date:

06/22/2016 13:37

Reporting LEO	Date	Supervisor	Date
Kuykendall, Robin (COMPANY D / Arkansas State Police)	187.517.2016	Richmond, Kevin (COMPANY D / Arkansas State Police)	8/31/2016

Narrative begins on the following page.

## ASP-2016-0112/11 ARKANSAS STATE POLICE (Interview of Witness-Sgt. Terrance Anderson)

On Thursday, June 16, 2016, I interviewed Sgt. Terrance Anderson in Building 1615 at the Fort Chaffee Joint Maneuver Training Center (FCJMTC). The purpose of the interview was to ascertain what information, if any, Anderson had regarding the death investigation of Specialist Sylvester Cline. Anderson was assigned on the range as a team leader for the training exercise. This interview began at 1:13 pm. The following is a summary of that interview.

Anderson said he saw Cline experiencing difficulty and called for a real world medic, due to them simulating casualties for the exercise. Anderson said Cline told him his body was cramping and that Cline walked about sixty yards to the medic. Anderson said this was about two hundred yards from the .50 caliber machine gun position that Cline was manning.

Anderson said Cline began taking his gear off. Anderson said Cline was drinking water. Anderson said someone walked Cline to the aid litter position. Anderson said he did not see Cline again.

Anderson said they had woke up at 03:45 to begin their day. Anderson said it was around 17:00, when Cline walked to the aid litter position.

Anderson said he had helped soldiers that day by having them roll their sleeves up and placing their hands in the water cooler. Anderson said he placed ice on their heads, neck and back.

This interview was concluded at 1:23 pm.

#### INVESTIGATIVE SUPPLEMENT ASP-2016-0112/12

Report Date: 06/17/2016

Primary Information

Description: Interview of Witness-Spc. Juan Bautista

Occurrence From:

06/16/2016 13:27

Occurrence To:

06/16/2016 13:35

Dissemination Code:

SYSTEM WIDE ACCESS

Reporting LEO:

Kuykendall, Robin (COMPANY D / Arkansas State Police)

Approval Status: Approved Date:

Approved

06/22/2016

Approved By:

Richmond, Kevin (COMPANY D / Arkansas State Police)

Subject #1 - WITNESS #1 - Bautista, Juan SP/4

Primary Information

Subject Name:

Bautista, Juan SP/4

Record Type:

PERSON

Bio:

20 yr. old, HISPANIC, MALE

Birth Date:

Juvenile:

NO

Relationship Information

Related Offense:

WITNESS of

Personal Information

Ethnicity:

**AMERICAN** 

Height:

66 143

Weight: Eye Color:

**BROWN** 

Hair Color:

**BLACK** 

Hair Length:

SHORT

Addresses

Relationship

**HOME ADDRESS** 

Address

**UNITED STATES** 

Telephones / E-Addresses

Relationship

Number/E-Address

**CELLULAR PHONE** 

(CELLULAR)

Identifications

ID Type SOCIAL Number

Country

As Of Date

**Fictitious** 

Comment

SECURITY

State

**UNITED STATES** 

6/16/2016

NO

**DRIVER LICENSE** 

**ARKANSAS** 

6/16/2016

NO

Record Status Information

Record Origination Operator:

Kuykendall, Robin (COMPANY D / Arkansas State Police)

08/31/2016 13:30:08 Page 1 of 3

# Arkansas State Police INVESTIGATIVE SUPPLEMENT ASP-2016-0112/12

Report Date: 06/17/2016

**Record Status Information - Continued** 

Record Origination Date:

06/20/2016 16:08

Last Update Operator:

Richmond, Kevin (COMPANY D / Arkansas State Police)

Last Update Date:

06/22/2016 13:34

Reporting LEO	Date	Supervisor	Date			
Kuykendall, Robin (COMPANY D / Arkansas State Police)	8/31/2016	Richmond, Kevin (COMPANY D / Arkansas State Police) 8/31/2016				

Narrative begins on the following page.

# ASP-2016-0112/12 ARKANSAS STATE POLICE (Interview of Witness-Spc. Juan Bautista)

On Thursday, June 16, 2016, I interviewed Spc. Juan Bautista in Building 1615 at the Fort Chaffee Joint Maneuver Training Center (FCJMTC). The purpose of the interview was to ascertain what information, if any, Bautista had regarding the death investigation of Specialist Sylvester Cline. Bautista was assigned on the range as a buddy safety with a M4 rifle for the training exercise. This interview began at 1:27 pm. The following is a summary of that interview.

Bautista said he was on the firing line during the dry fire exercise. Bautista said it was the third time he had gone through the dry fire phase of the exercise. Bautista said he saw Cline take his gear off and that he was sweating profusely. Bautista said they were about fifteen meters apart. Bautista said he also started to feel ill and they both went to the medic vehicles.

Bautista said Cline was weasing really bad. Bautista said Davis took them back to the barracks in the ambulance. Bautista said Cline told them in the ambulance, he couldn't feel the lower part of his body. Bautista said Cline also said that he was dizzy and his extremities were going numb. Bautista said they started an IV on Cline and took him to the Troop Medical Center (TMC).

Bautista said they woke up at 03:30 and left around 05:30. Bautista said after noon people started to fall out. Bautista said there were no clouds, it was very sunny and very hot. Bautista said they were told to stay in the cool area when they could and to drink plenty of water.

This interview was concluded at 1:35 pm.

#### INVESTIGATIVE SUPPLEMENT ASP-2016-0112/13

Report Date: 06/17/2016

Primary Information

Interview of Witness-SSG Tray Davis Description:

Occurrence From:

06/16/2016 13:41

Occurrence To:

06/16/2016 13:48

Dissemination Code:

SYSTEM WIDE ACCESS

Reporting LEO:

Kuykendall, Robin (COMPANY D / Arkansas State Police)

Approval Status: Approved Date:

Approved 06/22/2016

Approved By:

Richmond, Kevin (COMPANY D / Arkansas State Police)

Subject #1 - WITNESS #1 - Davis, Tray SSGT

Primary Information

Subject Name:

Davis, Tray SSGT

Record Type:

**PERSON** 

Bio:

39 yr. old, BLACK, MALE

Birth Date:

Juvenile: NO

Relationship Information

Related Offense:

WITNESS of

Personal Information

Ethnicity:

**AMERICAN** 

Height:

68 142

Weight:

Eye Color:

**BROWN** 

Hair Color: Hair Length: **BLACK** BALD

Addresses

Relationship

HOME ADDRESS

Address

UNITED STATES

Telephones / E-Addresses

Relationship

**CELLULAR PHONE** 

(CELLULAR)

Identifications

ID Type SOCIAL Number

State

Country

**Fictitious** 

SECURITY

**UNITED STATES** 

6/16/2016

NO

**DRIVER LICENSE** 

MISSISSIPPI

6/16/2016

NO

Record Status Information

Record Origination Operator:

Kuykendall, Robin (COMPANY D / Arkansas State Police)

Page 1 of 3 08/31/2016 13:30:10

### INVESTIGATIVE SUPPLEMENT ASP-2016-0112/13

Report Date: 06/17/2016

Record Status Information - Continued

Record Origination Date:

06/20/2016 16:16

Last Update Operator:

Richmond, Kevin (COMPANY D / Arkansas State Police)

Last Update Date:

06/22/2016 13:28

Reporting LEO	Date	Supervisor	Date ( )
Kuykendall, Robin (COMPANY D / Arkansas State Police)	8/31/2016	Richmond, Kevin (COMPANY D / Arkansas State Police)	8/31/2016

Narrative begins on the following page.

08/31/2016 13:30:10 Page 2 of 3

# ASP-2016-0112/13 ARKANSAS STATE POLICE (Interview of Witness-SSG Tray Davis)

On Thursday, June 16, 2016, I interviewed SSG Tray Davis in Building 1615 at the Fort Chaffee Joint Maneuver Training Center (FCJMTC). The purpose of the interview was to ascertain what information, if any, Davis had regarding the death investigation of Specialist Sylvester Cline. Davis was assigned on the range as a observer controller/trainer (OCT) for the training exercise. This interview began at 1:41 pm. The following is a summary of that interview.

Davis said he is in the regular army, stationed at Fort Stewart, Georgia. Davis said it was extremely hot. Davis said the soldiers were given breaks out of the sun, and told to hydrate.

Davis said he observed that Cline needed medical attention. Davis said Cline removed his gear and that he was sweating profusely. Davis said Cline seemed to be dazed and confused. Davis said medics came and got Cline and put him on a litter, and took him to an ambulance. Davis said another soldier went down and had to be evacuated. Davis said he did not see any ice sheets, which should have been there to treat heat exhaustion.

Davis said the range exercise should have been conducted earlier in the day.

This interview was concluded at 1:48 pm.

#### INVESTIGATIVE SUPPLEMENT ASP-2016-0112/14

Report Date: 06/17/2016

Primary Information

Description:

Interview of Witness-Sgt. Jacob Michaels

Occurrence From:

06/16/2016 13:56 06/16/2016 14:05

Occurrence To: Dissemination Code:

SYSTEM WIDE ACCESS

Reporting LEO:

Kuykendall, Robin (COMPANY D / Arkansas State Police)

Approval Status: Approved Date:

Approved 06/22/2016

Approved By:

Richmond, Kevin (COMPANY D / Arkansas State Police)

Subject #1 - WITNESS #1 - Michaels, Jacob SGT

Primary Information

Subject Name:

Michaels, Jacob SGT

Record Type:

PERSON

Bio:

30 yr. old, WHITE, MALE

Birth Date:

Juvenile:

Relationship Information

Related Offense:

WITNESS of

Personal Information

Ethnicity:

**AMERICAN** 

Height:

64

Weight:

170

Eye Color: Hair Color: **GREEN** BROWN

Hair Length:

SHORT

Addresses

Relationship

**HOME ADDRESS** 

Address

**UNITED STATES** 

Telephones / E-Addresses

Relationship

**CELLULAR PHONE** 

(CELLULAR)

Identifications

ID Type SOCIAL

<u>State</u>

Country **UNITED STATES** 

As Of Date 6/16/2016

**Fictitious** 

Comment

**SECURITY** 

**DRIVER LICENSE** 

NO

ARKANSAS

6/16/2016

NO

**Record Status Information** 

Record Origination Operator:

Kuykendall, Robin (COMPANY D / Arkansas State Police)

# Arkansas State Police INVESTIGATIVE SUPPLEMENT ASP-2016-0112/14

Report Date: 06/17/2016

Record Status Information - Continued

Record Origination Date:

06/20/2016 16:26

Last Update Operator:

Richmond, Kevin (COMPANY D / Arkansas State Police)

Last Update Date:

06/22/2016 13:27

Reporting LEO	Date	Supervisor	Date			
Kuykendall, Robin (COMPANY D / Arkansas State Police)	8/31/2016	Richmond, Kevin (COMPANY D / Arkansas State Police) 8/31/2016				

Narrative begins on the following page.

08/31/2016 13:30:11 Page 2 of 3

# ASP-2016-0112/14 ARKANSAS STATE POLICE (Interview of Witness-Sgt. Jacob Michaels)

On Thursday, June 16, 2016, I interviewed Sgt. Jacob Michaels in Building 1615 at the Fort Chaffee Joint Maneuver Training Center (FCJMTC). The purpose of the interview was to ascertain what information, if any, Michaels had regarding the death investigation of Specialist Sylvester Cline. Michaels was assigned on the range as a buddy safety for the training exercise. This interview began at 1:56 pm. The following is a summary of that interview.

Michaels said he was assigned as a buddy safety on the quick reactionary force (QRF). Michaels said he did not see Cline.

Michaels said it was extremely hot. Michaels said he went through three to four camelbaks of water. Michaels said he saw several go down with heat related illnesses and go to the medics.

This interview was concluded at 2:05 pm.

#### INVESTIGATIVE SUPPLEMENT ASP-2016-0112/15

Report Date: 06/17/2016

Primary Information

Description:

Interview of Witness-Sgt. Samuel Kell

Occurrence From:

06/16/2016 14:09

Occurrence To:

06/16/2016 14:32

Dissemination Code:

SYSTEM WIDE ACCESS

Reporting LEO:

Kuykendali, Robin (COMPANY D / Arkansas State Police)

Approval Status:

Approved 06/22/2016

Approved Date: Approved By:

Richmond, Kevin (COMPANY D / Arkansas State Police)

Subject #1 - WITNESS #1 - Kell, Samuel SGT

Primary Information

Subject Name:

Kell, Samuel SGT

Record Type:

**PERSON** 

Bio:

35 yr. old, WHITE, MALE

Birth Date:

Juvenile:

NO

Relationship Information

Related Offense:

WITNESS of

Personal Information

Ethnicity:

**AMERICAN** 

Height:

72

Weight:

190

Eye Color:

**BROWN** 

Hair Color:

**BROWN** 

Hair Length:

SHORT

Addresses

Relationship

**HOME ADDRESS** 

Address

. UNITED STATES

Telephones / E-Addresses

Relationship

Number/E-Address

**CELLULAR PHONE** 

(CELLULAR)

Identifications

ID Type

SOCIAL SECURITY

**State** 

**UNITED STATES** 

As Of Date

<u>Fictitious</u>

Commen

**DRIVER LICENSE** 

6/16/2016

NO

**ARKANSAS** 

6/16/2016

NO

Record Status Information

Record Origination Operator:

Kuykendall, Robin (COMPANY D / Arkansas State Police)

08/31/2016 13:30:13 Page 1 of 3

## INVESTIGATIVE SUPPLEMENT ASP-2016-0112/15

Report Date: 06/17/2016

**Record Status Information - Continued** 

Record Origination Date:

06/20/2016 16:34

Last Update Operator:

Richmond, Kevin (COMPANY D / Arkansas State Police)

Last Update Date:

06/22/2016 13:24

Reporting LEO	Date	Supervisor	Date
Kuykendall, Robin (COMPANY D / Arkansas State Police)	8/31/2016	Richmond, Kevin (COMPANY D / Arkansas State Police)	8/31/2016

Narrative begins on the following page.

08/31/2016 13:30:13 Page 2 of 3

# ASP-2016-0112/15 ARKANSAS STATE POLICE (Interview of Witness-SSG Samuel Kell)

On Thursday, June 16, 2016, I interviewed SSG Samuel Kell in Building 1615 at the Fort Chaffee Joint Maneuver Training Center (FCJMTC). The purpose of the interview was to ascertain what information, if any, Kell had regarding the death investigation of Specialist Sylvester Cline. Kell was assigned on the range as a platoon leader for the training exercise. This interview began at 2:09 pm. The following is a summary of that interview.

Kell said the point one position that Cline was stationed was in direct sunlight and that they were not able to put up camouflage netting at that location to provide cover. Kell said he had pulled Cline off the line several times to cool off and to hydrate.

Kell said the Lieutenant Colonel told them that the soldiers needed to know the difference between being tired and having a heat injury. Kell said the Lieutenant Colonel kept telling them they needed to push harder. Kell said the Lieutenant Colonel told them they were here to make history today. Kell said it was the first time they were performing dismounted live fire.

Kell said Cline went down at approximately 16:00. Kell said Cline was transported (evac) to the hospital by the medics. Kell said he went down after Cline and that he was evacuated directly to Mercy Hospital. Kell said he received an IV and placed in ice sheets on the way to the hospital.

Kell said he had a core temperature of 103 degrees and blood pressure of 180/125. Kell said when they arrived at Mercy Hospital, he walked inside on his own.

This interview was concluded at 2:32 pm.

#### INVESTIGATIVE SUPPLEMENT ASP-2016-0112/16

Report Date: 06/17/2016

**Primary Information** 

Description: Interview of Witness-CSM Charles Franks

Occurrence From:
Occurrence To:

06/16/2016 14:36 06/16/2016 14:50

Dissemination Code:

SYSTEM WIDE ACCESS

Reporting LEO:

Kuykendall, Robin (COMPANY D / Arkansas State Police)

Approval Status:
Approved Date:

Approved 06/22/2016

Approved By:

Richmond, Kevin (COMPANY D / Arkansas State Police)

Subject #1 - WITNESS #1 - Franks, Charles CSM

Primary Information

Subject Name: Franks, Charles CSM

Record Type:

**PERSON** 

Bio:

44 yr. old, WHITE, MALE

Birth Date:

Juvenile:

NO

Relationship Information

Related Offense:

WITNESS of

Personal Information

Ethnicity:

AMERICAN

Height:

70 175

Weight:

BROWN

Eye Color:

DIVOVIA

Hair Color:

RED

Hair Length:

SHORT

Addresses

Relationship

**HOME ADDRESS** 

Address

UNITED STATES

Telephones / E-Addresses

Relationship

Number/E-Address

**CELLULAR PHONE** 

(CELLULAR)

Identifications

ID Type SOCIAL Number

State

Country
UNITED STATES

As Of Date 6/16/2016

Fictitious NO

Comment

SECURITY

DRIVER LICENSE

ARKANSAS

6/16/2016

NO

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Record Status Information

Record Origination Operator:

Kuykendall, Robin (COMPANY D / Arkansas State Police)

08/31/2016 13:30:14 Page 1 of 3

## INVESTIGATIVE SUPPLEMENT ASP-2016-0112/16

Report Date: 06/17/2016

Record Status Information - Continued

Record Origination Date:

06/20/2016 16:41

Last Update Operator:

Richmond, Kevin (COMPANY D / Arkansas State Police)

Last Update Date:

06/22/2016 13:21

Reporting LEO	Date	Supervisor	Date
Kuykendall, Robin (COMPANY D / Arkansas State Police)	8/31/2016	Richmond, Kevin (COMPANY D / Arkansas State Police)	8/31/2016

Narrative begins on the following page.

## ASP-2016-0112/16 ARKANSAS STATE POLICE (Interview of Witness-CSM Charles Franks)

On Thursday, June 16, 2016, I interviewed CSM Charles Franks in Building 1615 at the Fort Chaffee Joint Maneuver Training Center (FCJMTC). The purpose of the interview was to ascertain what information, if any, Franks had regarding the death investigation of Specialist Sylvester Cline. Franks was assigned on the range as the senior enlisted officer for the training exercise. This interview began at 2:36 pm. The following is a summary of that interview.

Franks said he was the senior enlisted soldier on the exercise and reported directly to the commander. Franks said they met at 04:15 at the motor pool and left for the range at 04:45. Franks said Lieutenant Baum was the range officer in charge (OIC). Franks said they arrived at the range at 06:00. Franks said Alpha Company arrived and began to setup their equipment. Franks said they had hot chow at the range from 06:30 to 07:00.

Franks said that after the soldiers were fed breakfast, they were provided Gatorade and told to water-up their camelbaks.

Franks said he began to watch them execute their plan. Franks said the soldiers began to move to their positions and setup their weapons. Franks said the soldiers cleared brush and began to build cover.

Franks said they received ice for the water buffalo around 10:00.

Franks said soldiers began to go down after lunch. Franks said Specialist Bautista went down and he placed him in his truck to cool off.

Franks said he did not see Cline go down or see him transported.

Franks said every time they had a break in the action, the soldiers would come back into the shaded area, to cool off and hydrate.

Franks said they had twice as many medics on the exercise, as was required. Franks said they were simulating casualties as part of the exercise.

Franks said he heard SSG Kell holler numerous times to hydrate.

This interview was concluded at 2:50 pm.

#### INVESTIGATIVE SUPPLEMENT ASP-2016-0112/18

Report Date: 06/22/2016

Primary Information

Description: Interview of Witness Gib Richardson

Dissemination Code:

SYSTEM WIDE ACCESS

Reporting LEO:

Mendenhall, Corey (COMPANY D / Arkansas State Police)

Approval Status:

Approved

Approved Date:

06/27/2016

Approved By:

Richmond, Kevin (COMPANY D / Arkansas State Police)

Subject #1 - WITNESS #1 - Richardson, Gib Thomas

Primary Information

Subject Name:

Richardson, Gib Thomas

Record Type:

PERSON

Bio:

41 yr. old, WHITE, MALE

Birth Date:

Juvenile:

NO

Relationship Information

Related Offense:

WITNESS of

Personal Information

'Height:

602

Weight:

210 BLUE

Eye Color: Hair Color:

**BROWN** 

Addresses

Relationship

HOME ADDRESS

Address

**UNITED STATES** 

Identifications

ID Type

**DRIVER LICENSE** 

Number

<u>State</u> **ARKANSAS**  Country

As Of Date

**Fictitious** 

NO

Comment

**Record Status Information** Record Origination Operator:

Mendenhall, Corey (COMPANY D / Arkansas State Police)

Record Origination Date:

06/22/2016 13:22

Last Update Operator:

Richmond, Kevin (COMPANY D / Arkansas State Police)

Last Update Date:

06/27/2016 10:53

Reporting LEO	Date	Supervisor	Date
Mendenhall, Corey (COMPANY D / Arkansas State Police)		Richmond, Kevin (COMPANY D / Arkansas State Police)	8/31/2016

08/31/2016 13:30:17 Page 1 of 3

# Arkansas State Police INVESTIGATIVE SUPPLEMENT ASP-2016-0112/18

Report Date: 06/22/2016

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31	а.	ana	IVL	BUCL	11115	CJ12	1.111	UHUW	HILL	page.	- 3.7

08/31/2016 13:30:17 Page 2 of 3

## ASP-2016-0112/18 ARKANSAS STATE POLICE (INTERVIEW OF WITNESS GIB RICHARDSON)

On Thursday, June 16, 2016, I conducted an interview at the Fort Chaffee Joint Maneuver Training Center with 41-year-old Gib Richardson in reference to a heat related death illness that occurred at the base.

Gib said that he was the Battalion Commander of the 39th Infantry Brigade and that the Infantry Combat Brigade Team was conducting a static live fire basic defense exercise. Gib said that he didn't arrive at the range until about 12:15 p.m. to observe the exercise.

Gib said that the Brigade had eaten a hot breakfast and was provided with a MRE for the range. Gib said that the Brigade stopped for lunch to eat their MRE'S.

Gib said that Kline complained of feeling bad and was escorted to the medic. Kline walked without assistance approximately 60-70 meters from a shaded area to the Command Post and to the Command Post to the ambulance. Gib said that Kline had a NCO or medic walking next to him while walking to the ambulance.

Gib said that there was a total of 3 heat casualties on that day. Gib said that Davis and Bautista also complained of heat related symptoms and were taken to the AXP exchange point. Gib said that Kline's condition began to decline and he was taken to the CMED clinic which is a level two care unit. Gib said that when heat conditions are at a higher category, the Brigade will work for 10 minutes and break for 50 minutes.

Gib said that there were safety NCO'S and senior leader oversight and a dedicated safety NCO for each position. Gib said that there was a safety NCO for the two QRFS and that the NCO'S were rehearsed by the Range OIC.

#### INVESTIGATIVE SUPPLEMENT ASP-2016-0112/23

Report Date: 06/24/2016

Primary Information

Description: Interview of Witness Cody Wright

Dissemination Code: SYSTEM WIDE ACCESS

Reporting LEO: Mendenhall, Corey (COMPANY D / Arkansas State Police)

Approval Status: Approved Approved Date: 07/08/2016

Approved By: Richmond, Kevin (COMPANY D / Arkansas State Police)

Subject #1 - WITNESS #1 - Wright, Cody Gene

Primary Information

Subject Name: Wright, Cody Gene

Record Type: **PERSON** 

Bio: 36 yr. old, WHITE, MALE

Birth Date:

Juvenile: NO

Relationship Information

Related Offense: WITNESS of

Personal Information

Height: 511

Weight: 210

Eve Color: **BROWN** 

Hair Color: BROWN

Addresses

Relationship

**HOME ADDRESS** 

Identifications

ID Type

SOCIAL SECURITY Number

State **ARKANSAS**  Country

As Of Date

UNITED STATES

**Fictitious** 

NO

Comment

NO

DRIVER LICENSE **ARKANSAS** 

Record Status Information

Record Origination Operator: Mendenhall, Corey (COMPANY D / Arkansas State Police)

Record Origination Date: 06/24/2016 10:24

Last Update Operator: Richmond, Kevin (COMPANY D / Arkansas State Police)

Last Update Date: 07/08/2016 15:03

Reporting LEO	Date	Supervisor	Date
Mendenhall, Corey (COMPANY D / Arkansas State Police)	1815112111h	Richmond, Kevin (COMPANY D / Arkansas State Police)	8/31/2016

08/31/2016 13:30:23 Page 1 of 3

# Arkansas State Police INVESTIGATIVE SUPPLEMENT ASP-2016-0112/23

Report Date: 06/24/2016

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08/31/2016 13:30:23 Page 2 of 3

## ASP-2016-0112/23 ARKANSAS STATE POLICE (INTERVIEW OF WITNESS CODY WRIGHT)

On Thursday, June 16, 2016, at 2:55 p.m., I conducted an interview with Cody Wright at the Fort Chaffee Joint Maneuver Training Center. The purpose of the interview was to discuss what information he had regarding the death of Specialist Sylvester Cline. Wright was assigned on the range as an EVAC Platoon Sergeant for the training exercises. The following is a summary of that interview.

Wright said that he received a call from medics reporting that Cline was a heat casualty. Wright said that Cline was transported to the Troop Medical Clinic for further evaluation. Wright said that Cline was lying on his side when he first saw him.

Wright said that Cline was hooked up to an IV and was talking in an ultra mental status. Wright said that they tried to sit Cline up, but as soon as he laid back down he vomited a large quantity of straight liquid. Wright said that Cline was taken to the trauma room and was placed on a bed and medics took over.

Wright said that they used a suction to keep Cline's airway clear and added another IV along with a MPA nasal. Wright said that medics lost Cline's pulse and he had no shock able rhythm prior to being placed on the helicopter.

#### INVESTIGATIVE SUPPLEMENT ASP-2016-0112/25

Report Date: 07/08/2016

Primary Information

Description: Interview of Witness Natascha McBride

Dissemination Code:

SYSTEM WIDE ACCESS

Reporting LEO:

Mendenhall, Corey (COMPANY D / Arkansas State Police)

Approval Status:

Approved 07/08/2016

Approved Date: Approved By:

Richmond, Kevin (COMPANY D / Arkansas State Police)

Subject #1 - WITNESS #1 - McBride, Natascha Reccondra

Primary Information

Subject Name:

McBride, Natascha Reccondra

Record Type:

**PERSON** 

Bio:

37 yr. old, BLACK, FEMALE

Birth Date:

NO

Juvenile:

Relationship Information

Related Offense:

WITNESS of

Personal Information

Yeight:

509

Weight:

170

Eye Color:

**BROWN** 

Hair Color:

**BLACK** 

Addresses

Relationship

**HOME ADDRESS** 

Address

**UNITED STATES** 

Identifications

ID Type

Number

State

Country

As Of Date

**Fictitious** 

Comment

DRIVER LICENSE

**ARKANSAS** 

**UNITED STATES** 

NO

Record Status Information

Record Origination Operator:

Mendenhall, Corey (COMPANY D / Arkansas State Police)

Record Origination Date:

07/08/2016 11:52

Last Update Operator:

Richmond, Kevin (COMPANY D / Arkansas State Police)

Last Update Date:

07/08/2016 15:02

Reporting LEO	Date	Supervisor	Date
Mendenhall, Corey (COMPANY D / Arkansas State Police)	1873777076	Richmond, Kevin (COMPANY D / Arkansas State Police)	8/31/2016

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# Arkansas State Police INVESTIGATIVE SUPPLEMENT ASP-2016-0112/25

Report Date: 07/08/2016

08/31/2016 13:30:26 Page 2 of 3

# ASP-2016-0112/25 ARKANSAS STATE POLICE (INTERVIEW OF WITNESS NATASCHA MCBRIDE)

On Thursday, June 16, 2016, I conducted an interview with Natascha McBride in Building 1615 at the Fort Chaffee Joint Maneuver Training Center (FCJMTC). The purpose of the interview was to discuss what information she had regarding the death of Specialist Sylvester Cline. McBride was assigned to the Troop Medical Clinic located at the FCJMTC for the training exercise. The following is a summary of that interview:

McBride said she was a nurse practitioner at the Troop Medical Clinic for the exercises and that they brought Cline in as a heat casualty. McBride said that Cline was womiting upon his arrival. McBride said that they added an additional IV to him after cutting his clothes off. McBride said that they worked on Cline and was unable to obtain a pulse and Cline became unresponsive. McBride said that Cline was clammy.

McBride said that Cline was placed on the floor and medics began CPR. McBride said that they didn't complete a full round of CPR before transporting him to the helicopter and flying him to Mercy Fort Smith.

#### INVESTIGATIVE SUPPLEMENT ASP-2016-0112/26

Report Date: 07/08/2016

Primary Information

Interview of Witness Ja'Baurre Description:

Dissemination Code:

SYSTEM WIDE ACCESS

Reporting LEO:

Mendenhall, Corey (COMPANY D / Arkansas State Police)

Approval Status:

Approved

Approved Date:

07/08/2016

Approved By:

Richmond, Kevin (COMPANY D / Arkansas State Police)

Subject #1 - WITNESS #1 - Davis, Ja'Baurre Bruce

Primary Information

Subject Name:

Davis, Ja'Baurre Bruce

Record Type:

PERSON

Bio:

25 yr. old, BLACK, MALE

Birth Date:

Juvenile:

NO

Relationship Information

Related Offense:

WITNESS of

Personal Information

Height:

603

Weight:

240

Eye Color:

BROWN

Hair Color:

**BLACK** 

Addresses

Relationship

**HOME ADDRESS** 

Address

**UNITED STATES** 

Identifications

**ID Type** 

Number

State

Country

As Of Date

**Fictitious** 

Comment

DRIVER LICENSE

**ARKANSAS** 

NO

Record Status Information

Record Origination Operator:

Mendenhall, Corey (COMPANY D / Arkansas State Police)

Record Origination Date:

07/08/2016 13:01

Last Update Operator:

Richmond, Kevin (COMPANY D / Arkansas State Police)

Last Update Date:

07/08/2016 15:01

Reporting LEO	Date	Supervisor	Date
Mendenhall, Corey (COMPANY D / Arkansas State Police)		Richmond, Kevin (COMPANY D / Arkansas State Police)	8/31/2016

Page 1 of 3 08/31/2016 13:30:28

# Arkansas State Police INVESTIGATIVE SUPPLEMENT ASP-2016-0112/26

Report Date: 07/08/2016

Narrative begins on the following page.	

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# ASP-2016-0112/26 ARKANSAS STATE POLICE (INTERVIEW OF WITNESS JA'BAURRE DAVIS)

On Thursday, June 16, 2016, at 2:01 p.m., I conducted an interview with Ja'Baurre Davis at the Fort Chaffee Joint Maneuver Center (FCJMC). The purpose of the interview is to discuss what information he had regarding the death of specialist Sylvester Cline. Davis was on the range with Cline when both suffered from heat casualties during the training exercises. The following is a summary of that interview:

Davis said that he has known Cline outside of the military for about 5 years. Davis said that he went down as a heat casualty around 12:30 p.m. Davis said that it was extremely hot and there were very few shade trees. Davis said that he was wearing a camelback and was provided with adequate amounts of water. Davis said that there were 4 heat casualties that occurred during the exercises.

Davis said that he was with Cline when Cline began to complain about cramping in his right arm and Cline told him that the front of his head was numb. Cline also told him that his legs were numb. Davis said that Cline told him that he needed to pee and told him that he thought that he peed on himself.

Davis said that Cline was a very athletic person and didn't know of any medical issues Cline had.

**END** 

# Arkansas State Police

# INVESTIGATIVE SUPPLEMENT ASP-2016-0112/27

Report Date: 07/08/2016

Primary Information

Interview of Witness James Winters Description:

Dissemination Code:

SYSTEM WIDE ACCESS

Reporting LEO:

Mendenhall, Corey (COMPANY D / Arkansas State Police)

Approval Status: Approved Date:

Approved 07/08/2016

Approved By:

Richmond, Kevin (COMPANY D / Arkansas State Police)

Subject #1 - WITNESS #1 - Winters, James William

Primary Information

Subject Name: Winters, James William

Record Type:

**PERSON** 

Bio:

23 yr. old, WHITE, MALE

Birth Date:

Juvenile:

Relationship Information

Related Offense:

WITNESS of

Personal Information

Height:

509

Weight:

200

Eye Color:

BLUE

Hair Color: **BROWN** 

Addresses :

Relationship

**HOME ADDRESS** 

<u>Address</u>

UNITED STATES

Identifications

**ID** Type

Number

State

Country

As Of Date

**Fictitious** 

Comment

**DRIVER LICENSE** 

ARKANSAS

UNITED STATES

NO

Record Status Information

Record Origination Operator:

Mendenhall, Corey (COMPANY D / Arkansas State Police)

Record Origination Date:

07/08/2016 13:16

Last Update Operator:

Richmond, Kevin (COMPANY D / Arkansas State Police)

Last Update Date:

07/08/2016 14:59

Reporting LEO	Date	Supervisor	Date
Mendenhall, Corey (COMPANY D / Arkansas State Police)	18/31/2011	Richmond, Kevin (COMPANY D / Arkansas State Police)	8/31/2016

# Arkansas State Police INVESTIGATIVE SUPPLEMENT ASP-2016-0112/27

Report Date: 07/08/2016

Narrative begins on the following page.	3 1 V.	

08/31/2016 13:30:29 Page 2 of 3

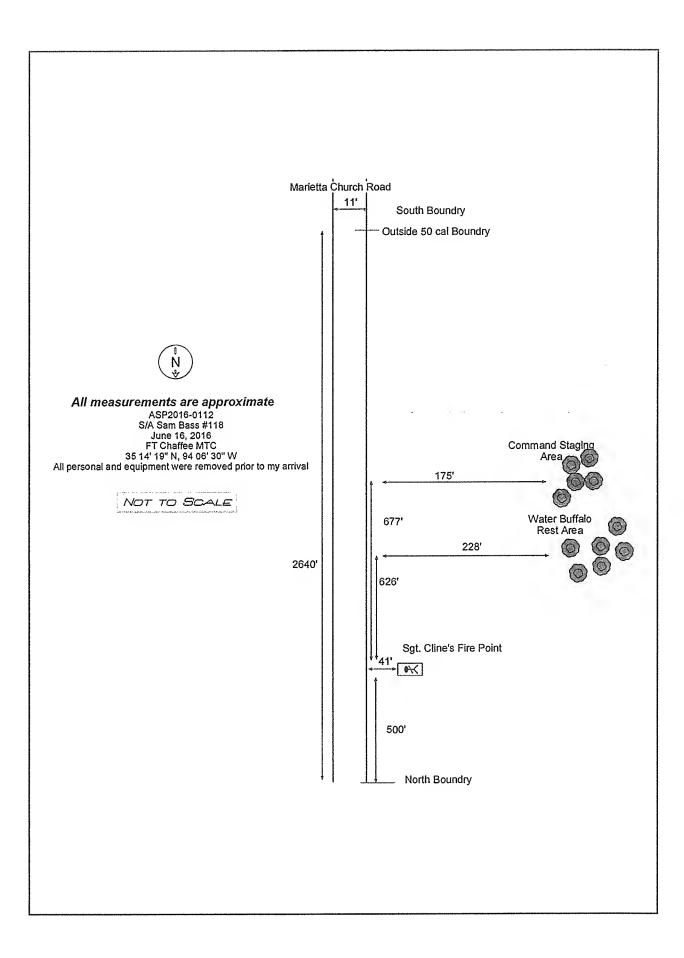
# ASP-2016-0112/27 ARKANSAS STATE POLICE (INTERVIEW OF WITNESS JAMES WINTERS)

On Thursday, June 16, 2016, at 2:18 p.m., I conducted an interview with James Winters at the Fort Chaffee Joint Maneuver Training Center. The purpose of the interview was to discuss what information he had regarding the death of specialist Sylvester Cline. Winters said that he was an EMT on the range for the training exercise. The following is a summary of that interview:

Winters said that he was at the ambulance when Cline fell out as a heat casualty. Winters said that when the ambulance arrived Cline walked to the ambulance without assistance around 4:30 p.m. Winters said that while enroot to the Troop Medical Center Cline began to vomit. Winters described the vomit as being a red-like substance.

Winters said that when they arrived at the Troop Medical Center, Major McBride took over and they kept Cline on laying on his side. Winters said that medics began one round of CPR before putting Cline on a helicopter for a medical transport.

**END** 





# ARKANSAS STATE CRIME LABORATORY

Case Number: 0639-16

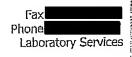
Exam Date: June 16, 2016

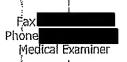


Kermit Channell II

Governor	Date Sent: June 15, 2016		16	Executive Director	
To: Terry Campbell, Coroner	***		· - (		
		**************************************	,		
	•				
	CAUSE	OF DEAT	<b>H</b>		
Sylvester B. Cline		32	Black	Male	
Name of Decedent (First, Middle, La	st)	Age	Race	Sex	
June 14, 2016		~·· .	June 14, 2016	··· @ ·6:17-PM-·	
Date of Death			Pronounced ; (Date)	(Time)	
Fort Chaffee Range, Fort S	mith, AR		June 14, 2016	@ 5:00 PM	
Incident Occurred or Found Dead (L	ocation)		Incident (Date)	(Time)	
Cause of Death: Determine Pending	d by Investigation ar	nd 🗌 Inspect	don ☑Autopsy	·	
	:		) 		
Other Significant Findings:	:		<b>.</b> ************************************		
		****		***************************************	
Manner of Death:	•		•		
Pending	•				
If Pending (Reason): A Toxicology	Police Investigation	Microscopics C	Standard SIDS Work Up 🔲 Me	edical Records Review	
•		, ,	• • • • • • • • • • • • • • • • • • •		
Testing blood  cell trait.	for sic	Kle	Investigating Agency:  Please send investi Please call this office Please send medical Please send dental Further investigation	ce, al/hospital records. records.	
			Shint M		
			Adam F. Craig, M.D.		
	:		Associate Medical Ex	caminer	
	•		, i		

#3 Natural Resources Drive • P.O. Box 8500 • Little Rock, Arkansas 72215







# **State Crime Laboratory**

P.O. Box 8500 3 Natural Resources Drive Little Rock, Arkansas 72215



# **Medical Examiner Division**

Case No:

2016-014051 / ME-0639-16

Date of Examination:

June 16, 2016

Name:

CLINE, Sylvester B

Age:

32 Years

Sex:

Male

County:

Sebastian

# **CONCLUSIONS**

August 21, 2016

CAUSE OF DEATH:

Environmental Hyperthermia

MANNER OF DEATH:

Accident

Adam F. Craig, M.D.

Associate Medical Examiner - Pathologist of Record

Stephen A. Erickson, M.D.

Deputy Chief Medical Examiner - Reviewer

Charles P. Kokes, M.D.

Chief Medical Examiner - Reviewer

#### **EXTERNAL DESCRIPTION:**

The body was that of a well-developed, well-nourished, muscular, black male, received unclad at autopsy. The body had been brought into the morgue clad in a green hospital gown, which had been removed earlier. On the right wrist was a plastic or rubber bracelet. Accompanying the body were green camo pants with a belt, green plaid boxer shorts, a white safety belt, a lighter, a packet of water flavoring, a range card, and a box with ear plugs. The pants and boxer shorts had both been cut. The body weighed 98 kg (217 pounds), had a length of 185 cm (73 inches), and appeared consistent with the reported age of 32 years. The body was cool. present and equal in all extremities. Lividity was red-purple and fixed on the posterior surface of the body, except in areas exposed to pressure. The scalp hair was black and consisted of short The decedent wore a thin mustache and had facial stubble in the remaining beard areas. The irides were unremarkable and the pupils were equal at 7 to 8 mm in diameter. The corneae The conjunctivae and sclerae had mild vascular congestive change, without petechiae or icterus. The external nares and lips were unremarkable. The teeth were natural and in good condition, with moderate misalignment. The auricles of the ears were unremarkable and the external auditory canals were dry. Examination of the neck revealed no evidence of injury. The chest had mild superficial injuries to be described, with no external evidence of injury of the ribs or sternum. The abdomen was flat, with no acute injuries noted. The external genitalia were those of a normal adult male, without injuries. The upper and lower extremities were well-developed and symmetric, without edema or loss of digits. No tattoos, needle tracks, or wrist scars were noted. The spine appeared to be intact by external examination. The anus was The posterior surface of the body was symmetric. There was no evidence of significant recent injury.

#### **EVIDENCE OF MEDICAL ATTENTION:**

In the oral cavity was an endotracheal tube. In the left anterior upper aspect of the chest was a plastic intravenous catheter needle, which penetrated through the skin and soft tissue, without entering into the chest cavity. In the left antecubital fossa and the dorsal aspect of the right hand were intravenous catheters. Around the right wrist was a hospital identification band.

# **EVIDENCE OF OLD INJURY:**

On the left anterolateral aspect of the abdomen was a 0.5 cm, faint, irregular, well-healed scar. On the anteromedial aspect of the left thigh was a 7 by I inch, elongated, diagonally-oriented, pale, well-healed scar, which had prominent scarred suture marks along the margins. Scattered across the anterior aspects of the knee and the adjacent left lower leg were several, irregular, well-healed scars. On the posteromedial aspect of the right elbow region was a 2 cm, irregular, well-healed scar. On the ventral radial proximal aspect of the right forearm was a 1.5 cm, irregular, well-healed scar. On the dorsal distal aspect of the left forearm were a few, small, faint, linear, well-healed scars.

#### **EVIDENCE OF RECENT INJURY:**

On the anterior aspect of the right shoulder, with slight extension onto the chest, were two, parallel, linear, diagonally-oriented, red-brown abrasions, which measured 7 cm and 1 cm. On the dorsal proximal aspect of the left forearm was a 2.5 cm, linear, horizontal, faint, red-brown abrasion. On the anterior lower midline of the chest were three apparent postmortem marks, which were orange-brown and measured 0.1 to 0.2 cm.

# **INTERNAL EXAMINATION:**

The subcutaneous fat layer of the abdomen measured up to 1 cm. No adhesions or abnormal collections of fluid were present in the pleural or peritoneal cavities. A few petechiae were present on the posterior aspect of the heart and severe petechiae were scattered across the surfaces of the lungs. No petechiae were present on the thymus. All body organs were present in their normal anatomic positions. There was no internal evidence of blunt force or penetrating injury to the cranio-cerebral or thoraco-abdominal regions.

#### **CARDIOVASCULAR SYSTEM:**

The pericardial and epicardial surfaces were smooth, glistening, and unremarkable. The pericardial sac contained approximately 10 mL of serous fluid, and was without adhesions. The 450 g heart was normal in size, shape, and configuration. The coronary arteries arose normally and followed the usual distribution. In the proximal aspect of the left anterior descending coronary artery was an eccentric atherosclerotic plaque that produced approximately 50% narrowing of the lumen. Distal to this, the artery passed a short distance underneath a thin layer of myocardium. The remaining portions of this artery and the other two coronary arteries had no significant atherosclerosis. None of the coronary arteries had evidence of thrombosis. Examination of the chambers and valves revealed a normal size-position relationship, with normal endocardial surfaces, chordae tendineae, papillary muscles, and valve leaflets. myocardium was red-brown, firm, and unremarkable. The atrial and ventricular septa were The aorta and its major branches arose normally, followed the usual course, and were widely patent, free of significant atherosclerosis and other abnormality. The vena cava and its major tributaries returned to the heart in the usual distribution and were free of thrombi.

# RESPIRATORY SYSTEM:

The 1000 g right and 970 g left lungs had smooth, glistening pleural surfaces, with petechiae as previously described. The pulmonary arteries were normally developed, patent, and without thrombus or embolus. The upper and lower airways were clear of debris and foreign material. There was pallor of the mucosa in the proximal aspect of the trachea due to the inflated bulb of the endotracheal tube. The mucosal surfaces were otherwise smooth and of normal coloration. The pulmonary parenchyma had prominent, dark red-purple, slightly-mottled dependent congestion, with a minimal amount of tan-red-brown parenchyma in the non-dependent regions. Expressed from the cut surfaces of the lung parenchyma was prominent, frothy, watery fluid, consistent with diffuse edema. No specific focal lesions were noted.

#### NECK:

Examination of the soft tissues of the neck, including strap muscles, thyroid gland, and large vessels, revealed no abnormalities or hemorrhage. The hyoid bone and largnx were intact. The epiglottis and vocal cords were unremarkable.

#### **ALIMENTARY TRACT:**

The tongue was without evidence of recent injury. The esophagus was lined by gray-white, smooth mucosa. The gastric mucosa was arranged in the usual rugal folds, and the lumen contained approximately 50 mL of material, most of which was fragments of undigested food, with very little liquid component. The small and large intestines were unremarkable and the colon contained pasty, green, unformed stool. The rectum and anus were unremarkable. The appendix was present.

# **LIVER AND PANCREAS:**

The 2225 g liver had a smooth, glistening, intact capsule, covering red-brown, firm parenchyma, with no focal lesions noted. The edges were sharp. The gallbladder contained approximately 20 mL of dark green, mucoid bile. The mucosa was velvety and unremarkable. The extrahepatic biliary tree was patent, without evidence of calculi. The pancreas ranged from tan-brown to tan-gray, with firm, lobulated parenchyma and patent ducts.

#### **GENITOURINARY SYSTEM:**

The 170 g right and 190 g left kidneys had thin renal capsules that stripped with ease from the underlying, smooth, firm cortical surfaces. The dark red-brown cortices were not well delineated from the red-purple medullary pyramids. The calyces, pelves, and ureters were unremarkable. The urinary bladder contained approximately 200 mL of pale yellow urine. The mucosa was gray-tan and smooth. The prostate and testes were unremarkable.

#### IMMUNOLOGICAL SYSTEM:

The thymus was identified and appeared to be well-formed, with minimal adipose tissue infiltration. The 170 g spleen had a smooth, intact capsule covering red-purple, moderately-firm parenchyma, with visible, but non-prominent, white pulp. Within the parenchyma of the spleen were at least four white nodules with indistinct borders, which ranged from 0.2 to 0.4 cm. No accessory spleen was identified. Regional lymph nodes were not enlarged.

#### **ENDOCRINE SYSTEM:**

The pituitary, pineal, thyroid, and adrenal glands were free of obvious disease.

# MUSCULOSKELETAL SYSTEM:

Muscles were red-brown and had normal development. Examination of the outer surface of the skull revealed a total of four, roughly-dome-shaped nodules. On the superior aspect of the left parietal bone was one of these nodules that measured 2 cm in diameter and was raised above the

surface of the skull by approximately 2 to 3 mm. On the posterior lateral aspect of the right parietal bone was another one that measured 3 cm in diameter and was raised above the surface of the skull by about 3 to 4 mm. On the anterior aspect of the right parietal bone of the skull were two others, each of which measured approximately 0.7 cm in diameter and were minimally-raised above the surface of the skull. No other bone or joint abnormalities were noted. The cervical, thoracic, and lumbar spine showed no obvious fractures or other abnormalities.

# **CENTRAL NERVOUS SYSTEM:**

The scalp showed no edema or hemorrhage. The calvarium and base of the skull had no fractures; the bony nodules were previously described. The dura mater and falx cerebri were intact. There was no epidural, subdural, or subarachnoid hemorrhage present. The leptomeninges were thin, delicate, and clear. The 1485 g brain had symmetric cerebral hemispheres, with typical gyri and sulci for the decedent's age. The cranial nerves were intact. The circle of Willis and related blood vessels were normal in caliber and distribution. Sections through the cerebral hemispheres, brainstem, and cerebellum revealed no focal lesions or herniation. The spinal cord was not examined.

#### HISTOLOGY:

Heart and vessels: Three sections of left ventricle and interventricular septum had vascular congestion, without evidence of acute ischemia, significant fibrosis, or inflammation. Sections of the sinoatrial (SA) node and the atrioventricular (AV) nodes showed vascular congestion, without any structural abnormalities or regional small vessel disease. Cross sections of two coronary arteries both showed eccentric intimal fibrous atherosclerotic plaque formations, which produced moderate luminal narrowing. Neither artery had luminal thrombosis.

Lung: Five sections of lung had vascular congestion and variable-amounts of patchy intra-alveolar extravasated blood. Three of the sections had a few bronchi and alveolar spaces that contained fragments of degenerating muscle tissue and plant tissue, with associated postmortem bacterial growth, and without associated inflammation, consistent with perimortem aspiration of gastric contents. No significant inflammation was identified throughout the sections. An iron stain of the lung tissue was negative.

Alimentary tract: Sections of large and small intestines had submucosal vascular congestion and variable autolysis and sloughing of the papillae, with no other histopathologic abnormalities. Sections of appendix had no significant acute inflammation.

Salivary gland: A section of submandibular salivary gland had vascular congestion. In the fibrous tissue around vessels in the center of the glandular lobules were a few areas of mild chronic inflammatory cell infiltration. No other significant inflammation or evidence of viral cytopathic effect was identified.

Liver: A section of liver had patchy mild congestion in the sinusoids, but not in the vessels. The portal triads had mild chronic inflammatory cell infiltration. No significant fibrosis or steatosis was identified.

Pancreas: Two sections of pancreas had partial loss of hematoxylin staining and cellular details, consistent with autolysis. No significant inflammation or fibrosis was identified. Islets of Langerhans in areas without autolysis were unremarkable.

Kidney: A section of kidney had vascular congestion that was mainly in the medulla. A few small arteries had mild to moderate intimal thickening of artery walls. No significant inflammation, interstitial fibrosis, or glomerular sclerosis was identified.

Prostate: A section of prostate had vascular congestion, without evidence of hyperplasia, malignancy, or significant inflammation. The glands had variable cellular sloughing.

Thymus: A section of thymus had a histologic architecture appropriate for age, with prominent involution of the lymphocytic parenchyma, which had minimal adipose tissue infiltration of the gland, accounting for only about 20% of the tissue in the section. In the lymphocytic parenchyma were rare foci of interstitial extravasated blood, consistent with petechiae.

Spleen: Two sections of spleen had congestion of the red pulp with red blood cells that had degenerated and consisted of cellular ghosts. No lipogranulomas or germinal centers were identified in the white pulp. One of the sections had an area of necrosis that was surrounded by a moderately-thick layer of epithelioid cells and infrequent multi-nucleated giant cells, which was further surrounded by a thin layer of chronic inflammatory cell infiltration. The necrotic area consisted mainly of pink cellular ghosts, scattered dark purple minute nuclear fragments, and occasional degenerating cells. This was consistent with a granuloma.

Lymph node: A section of a cluster of hilar lymph nodes had vascular congestion, with no evidence of increased reactivity.

Pituitary gland: A section of pituitary gland had vascular congestion. Both anterior and posterior lobes of gland were present in the section.

Pineal gland: A section of pineal gland had vascular congestion, with a typical glandular configuration of cells, and without parenchymal corpora arenacea.

Thyroid gland: Two sections of thyroid gland had vascular congestion, with no significant inflammation or fibrosis.

Adrenal gland: A section of adrenal gland had vascular congestion, with no significant inflammation.

Musculoskeletal system: A section of skeletal muscle had mild vascular congestion, without inflammation, fibrosis, necrosis, or evidence of ischemia. A section of one of the nodules of the skull showed a thickened area of unremarkable cortical bone.

Brain: Sections of cerebrum with hippocampus, cerebellum, pons, medulla, and cervical spinal cord had vascular congestion, with no significant inflammation, ischemia, or malignancy.

# **RADIOLOGY:**

No radiographs were prepared prior to autopsy.

# **IDENTIFICATION:**

The body was received as identified by the Sebastian County Coroner's Office.

#### **EVIDENCE:**

Evidence collected and retained consisted of a blood matrix card for DNA and fingerprints. The clothing and personal items were returned with the decedent.

# SPECIMENS:

Specimens collected for toxicology consisted of peripheral blood and urine. Collected for chemistries was vitreous humor. Collected for hemoglobin studies was a purple top tube of blood. A portion of liver was saved and frozen.

# **PHOTOGRAPHS:**

Standard photographs of the body, along with photographs of the superficial injuries and the bony nodules of the skull, were prepared.

# WITNESSES:

No visitors from outside agencies were present during the autopsy.

#### LABORATORY RESULTS

# TOXICOLOGY:

Sylvester Cline: Peripheral blood

Volatile

Acetone not detected
Ethanol not detected
Isopropanol not detected
Methanol not detected

Immunoassay

Benzodiazepines negative Cannabinoids negative Cocaine negative Methadone negative Methamphetamines negative Opiates negative Oxycodone negative Propoxyphene negative

General Toxicology

No drugs detected

# **CHEMISTRIES:**

Basic Metabolic Panel (vitreous humor):

Sodium 139.0 mmol/L
Potassium 8.6 mmol/L
Chloride 113 mmol/L
Creatinine 0.5 mg/dL
Urea Nitrogen 17 mg/dL
Glucose 46 mg/dL

# **HEMATOLOGY:**

Hgb HPLC Profile (hemoglobin high performance liquid chromatography):

Hemoglobin A 98.3%
Hemoglobin A2 1.7%
Hemoglobin F <0.8%
Hemoglobin S 0.0%
Other Hemoglobin 0.0%

# **FINDINGS**

- I. Environmental hyperthermia.
- II. Focal coronary artery atherosclerosis, moderate.
- III. Abrasions of right shoulder and left forearm.
- IV. Bony nodules of outer table of skull (total of four, 0.7 to 3.0 cm in diameter).
- V. Granulomas of spleen (total of four, 0.2 to 0.4 cm in size).
- VI. Pulmonary congestion and edema.
- VII. Petechiae of heart, lungs, and thymus.

#### **OPINION:**

This 32-year-old, black male, Sylvester Cline, died of environmental hyperthermia.

The agencies responsible for investigation of this death were the Sebastian County Coroner's Office and the Arkansas State Police, who reported that the decedent was involved in military training exercises on June 14, 2016, at Fort Chaffee. The exercise had started at 7:00 AM. At 4:00 PM, the decedent began complaining of heat cramps. He went to the base medical clinic at 5:00 PM where ice sheets were placed on him. At 5:15 PM his mental status started to alter and shortly after that, he vomited. At 5:40 PM, cardiopulmonary resuscitation (CPR) was started. He was transported by helicopter to Mercy Hospital in Fort Smith where they arrived at 6:00 PM. Resuscitative efforts continued in the Emergency Department (ED) until he was pronounced dead at 6:17 PM. A review of the medical records showed that there had not been time during resuscitative efforts to record a body temperature.

An autopsy revealed a well-developed, well-nourished, muscular, black male, who had small faint abrasions (scrapes) on the right shoulder and the left forearm. No other injuries were noted either externally or internally. Internal examination revealed prominent edema and congestion in The surface of the skull had four bony nodules that formed slightly-raised the lungs. dome-shaped formations, which were microscopically unremarkable. One of the coronary arteries had a focal area of atherosclerosis, which produced moderate narrowing of the lumen. On the heart and lungs were several scattered petechiae, and microscopically the thymus had a few petechiae, all of which may have been related to resuscitative efforts. examination of the organs and selected tissues revealed the small nodules in the spleen to be Hemoglobin studies of the blood were granulomas, which is a type of focal inflammation. negative for the sickle hemoglobin, which excludes both sickle cell disease and sickle cell trait. Chemistries of the vitreous humor revealed a mildly-elevated chloride level, but no other abnormal levels and no evidence of dehydration. A rapid drugs-of-abuse screen performed on the urine during the autopsy was completely negative. Further toxicological examination of the blood was negative for drugs and alcohol.

Although a temperature was not taken when the decedent became ill or was being medically treated, the described events and symptoms were consistent with hyperthermia. All other possible causes of death were excluded by gross and microscopic examination of the organs, and toxicology and laboratory testing. Due to the circumstances that occurred prior to death, the manner of death was classified as accident.

MANNER OF DEATH: Accident